



# COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND GENDER TRAINING – COTABATO



## COMPLETION REPORT



## I. RATIONALE

The Community Relations Training (CRT) Program, pioneered in Sulu, continues to be a very effective means of capacity-building among members of the security sector. It is being conducted to enhance the security sector's relations with the community it professes to serve and protect. It focuses on developing human relations skills through the acknowledgement and practice of socio-cultural sensitivities, sustained dialogues, co-creation and co-ownership of community peace and development initiatives, and embracing peace-centered advocacies

The Asia Foundation (TAF) has supported the conduct of six CRTs for the Marines in Sulu from 2011 to 2012 until the training has been institutionalized as part of their capacity building activities in 2013. In addition to this, the Foundation supported the development of a CRT Manual that provides information to and serves as training module for the Marines.

With this continuing success, the Marine Battalion Landing Team – 1 (MBLT 1) feels the need to replicate the program in their area. This time, however, greater emphasis on gender will be given. The Armed Forces of the Philippines has been integrated with female officer and personnel for almost 50 years now. The least unit which integrated females in its organization is the Philippine Marine Corps that is largely driven by combat specialist and tacticians and where seniority and authority is strictly observed. In general, one of the challenges faced by the military is its being a highly male-dominated institution. Along these lines are the questions: What are gender issues that armed forces and other security actors face? How to make them gender sensitive? How to bring genuine gender mainstreaming in their institutions?

The MBLT-1 stationed in Cotabato City conducted the first **Community Relations and Gender Training** on March 17-26, 2014 held at STI College Cotabato City (Annex) located at Don Rufino Alonzo St., Cotabato City. There were thirty two (32) participants – 21 from the Philippine Marines, 2 from the Philippine Army, 2 from the Philippine National Police, and 7 community leaders from Cotabato City, Upi, and Datu Blah Sinsuat. Having both the security sector and local officials involved in the training was not only enriched the discussions but also paved way to fostering genuine relationship between the security sector and the community.

The MBLT-1 coordinated with the Cotabato City Coalition for Change (4C's) in organizing the training. The 4C's was created during the Asia Foundation's project on addressing election-related violence during the October 2013 Barangay elections. It is composed of various local non-government organizations, the Philippine National Police, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The partnership, however, continues beyond the elections with this training serving as one testament of an improved state-society relations.

The Moro Women Development and Cultural Center (MWDECC), Inc. served as the Grantee of the Training. The MWDECC, one of the member organization of 4C's, is a non-government

organization that envisions a community where women's participation in development undertakings is recognized and space for cultural preservation and education is provided. It was created to provide the multifaceted needs of women in conflict-affected areas. It paves the avenue not only for women's personal development but their active involvement in the socio-economic and cultural development of the nation.

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

1. Enhance genuine relation between security sector and local community;
2. Understand the socio-cultural, religious, and historical context in Cotabato and Maguindanao;
3. Enhance gender sensitivity and respect for human rights;
4. Develop self-awareness in relation to the overall peace campaign in Cotabato (Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro);
5. Partner over co-owned and co-created peace and development initiatives, and
6. Internalize the Internal Peace and Security Plan (IPSP) or "Bayanihan" Concept of Operations

## **III. PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS**

There were thirty two (32) participants – 21 from the Philippine Marines (MBLT-1, MBLT-7, MBLT-8, and 1MBDE), 2 from the CMO Battalion of 6th Infantry Division of Philippine Army, 2 from the Cotabato City Police Office (CCPO) of the Philippine National Police, and 7 local government unit of Cotabato City, Upi, and Datu Blah Sinsuat. There were 3 from Cotabato City, 2 from Upi and 2 from Datu Blah Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

## IV. PROCEEDINGS

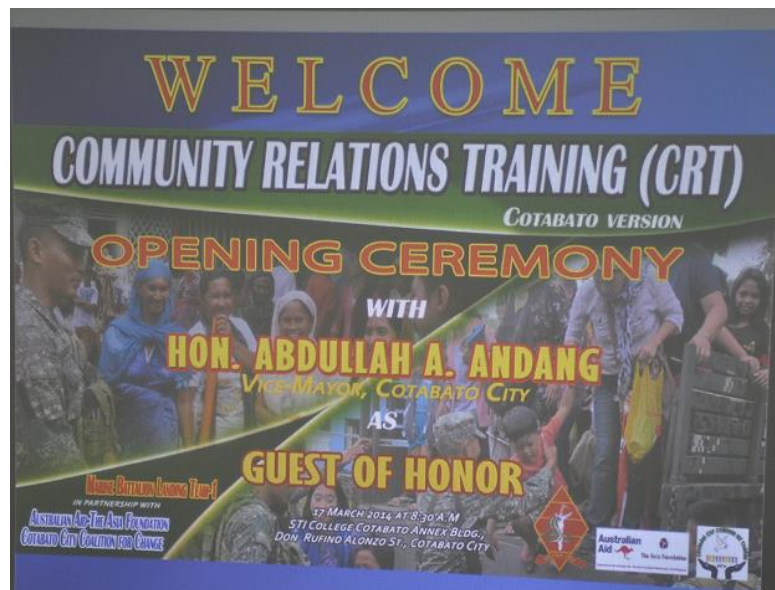
### FIRST DAY: MARCH 17, 2014

#### A. ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

The participants arrived at the venue earlier than the set time especially the members of the Philippine Marines. They immediately registered and prepared themselves.

#### B. OPENING CEREMONY

**Objective:** To formally commence the activity and brief the participants of its rationale.



**CRT-COTABATO VERSION.** A 10-day Community Relations and Gender Training attended by participants from security sector and LGU's under the area of operations of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-I and Marine Brigade-I held on March 17-26, 2014 at STI College, Cotabato City.



**PEACEBUILDERS.** CRT Core Group and Participants with Honorable Vice-Mayor Hadji Abdullah A. Andang during the photo ops after the Opening Ceremony Program.



**PEACE ADVOCATES.** LTCOL RONALDO V JUAN PN(M)(GSC), Commanding Officer of MBLT-1 together with his Executive Officer, MAJ DANILO T FACUNDO PN(M) and Vice Mayor Hadji Abdullah A. Andang

## Activity 1: Opening Prayer and Welcome Address

- Objectives:**
1. To create an atmosphere of unity and mutual acceptance regardless of differences in religion and beliefs;
  2. To emphasize on the participants that everyone's presence is warmly appreciated and welcomed.

The Opening Ceremony started with a little background on how the Community Relations and Gender Training (CRT) Program - Cotabato Version was materialized as discussed by one of the member of the CRT Core Group. It was followed by a prayer offered by our Muslim Brother Ustadz Esmael Ibrahim and Sergeant Roger Q Trumata PN(M). Everyone was requested to remain standing for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.



The Commanding Officer of Marine Battalion Landing Team-1, LTCOL RONALDO V JUAN PN(M)(GSC) gave his welcome remarks. He then gave an overview of the said training program. He also emphasized that the purpose of this training program is to expound the Internal Peace and Security Plan (IPSP) or 'Bayanihan' of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the involvement of all sectors of the society and the stakeholders as well.



**WELCOME MESSAGE.** LTCOL RONALDO V JUAN PN(M)(GSC), the Commanding Officer of MBLT-1, delivered his Welcome Message to the participants and members of the CRT Core Group during the Opening Ceremony.



**OPENING CEREMONY.** Participants and members of the CRT Core Group gathered during the Opening Ceremony of Community Relations & Gender Training Program-Cotabato Version.



**PRESENTATION OF TRAINEES.** MAJ DANILO T FACUNDO PN(M) salutes to the Commanding Officer of MBLT-1 as he presents the 32 participants of the Community Relations and Gender Training Program-Cotabato Version.

## **Activity 2: Message from the Guest of Honor**

The Honorable Vice Mayor of Cotabato City Hadji Abdullah A. Andang was the Guest of Honor and Speaker during the Opening Ceremony. Vice Mayor Andang said that before he became a politician he was once a Battalion Commander of the CAGU way back in the 1970's. He also served the Department of Education for more than four decade. He then recalled that he was a teacher in the morning and a soldier in the evening. Vice Mayor Andang, in his speech then shared that he joined in a lot of trainings such as this one before for the purpose of attaining peace but all failed because of the unstable peace negotiation between the government and the rebel groups during those days. He elaborated a brief history of Cotabato City, the failures of past negotiations, the pains and sufferings that Cotabato endured brought by the natural disasters and man-made calamities delivered by the unresolved conflict in the pursuit for peace.

He mentioned about past negotiations between the government and the MNLF and the MILF which resulted to the creation of ARMM, its successes and failures up to the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) which was then to be signed on March 27, 2014.

Andang expressed gratitude for the presence of the Marines and really hope that the Marines will stay here in Cotabato City adding that the group contributed much to the restoration of peace, order and security of the city. He commended the MBLT-I for the efforts done and for holding this kind of activity. He expressed hopes and optimism that efforts such as these will bring about positive result especially with the peace process and the signing of the CAB.

Andang said that this training is very timely because not all soldiers, not all the Filipinos know about the culture of the Muslims. There is a need to understand the culture of Muslims and vice-versa. Muslims should also know the culture of Christians. And with the help of our partners the Asia Foundation, The Australian Aid, the Cotabato City Coalition for change, we can change for the better.'

He then mentioned the problems besetting Cotabato City before the Marines came – the rampant kidnappings, but under the leadership of the former Battalion Commanders of the Marines COL CUSTODIO J PARCON JR PN(M)(GSC) who were requested by the City Mayor and supported by the Sangguniang Panlungsod, the kidnappings were minimized.

He congratulated the LTCOL JUAN and MAJ FACUNDO, the Marines and the support groups for coming up with training like this. He said, 'the city government of Cotabato under the leadership of Mayor Japal 'Jojo' J. Guiani is happy that you hold such kind of training in Cotabato City. He urged the support groups to continue supporting LTCOL JUAN and the Marines for their plans and programs.

He congratulated also the participants for the opportunity to attend the training. He said, 'We do this also before but it was always a failure because while civil-military training was going on, the war was also going on. Even while the seminar was ongoing, we hear the explosion of the bombs. But now Cotabato is peaceful, we have nothing to fear. Before, whether we liked it or not we had to reinforce the soldiers in the mountain.'

'I hope we see each other again with a genuine smile on our faces because the President has ended the problems in Mindanao – the establishment of a Bangsamoro Government. Together let us make Cotabato a better place to live in. We should be happy as a Filipinos. Not as one group of people but as a nationwide Filipino people,' Andang ended.



**GUEST OF HONOR.** Honorable Vice Mayor of Cotabato City, Hadji Abdullah A. Andang during his speech at the Opening Ceremony of Community Relations Training (CRT) Program-Cotabato Version.



**APPRECIATION.** A Plaque of Appreciation was presented by the Commanding Officer of MBLT-1 to the Honorable Vice Mayor Hadji Abdullah A. Andang for his invaluable services rendered as Guest of Honor and Speaker during the Opening Ceremony of CRT Program-Cotabato Version.

### C. ESTABLISHING RAPPORT/KNOWING EACH OTHER

- Objectives:**
1. To introduce the process of getting to know each other better among the participants;
  2. To create a friendly environment
  3. To collect the expectations of the participants

**Outcome:** Participants enjoyed the little time chatting/conversing with his/her chosen partner/seatmate. Each participant was able to introduce/give basic details of his/her partner based on the 1-minute time allocated to get to know each other.

A getting-to-know you activity was done in which the participants were instructed to choose a partner. Each partner will ask the other basic questions like his/her name, nickname, his unit of origin or office, his/her birthday, residence and expectations.

The activity rolled on easily as participants all felt relaxed and the atmosphere was light. Each proceeded to start the acquaintance with his chosen partner – a seatmate and started asking the details of his partner and vice-versa.

The participants were quick and smart to jot down the details as each had to go to front to introduce his partner to the class. The participants, especially the soldiers were quick to volunteer to go to the front. The vice-versa introduction

reeled off smoothly and it gave the training a warm, friendly and jovial atmosphere.

Among the expectations expressed by the students were:

- ✚ To know to know about the culture of Cotabato City and the cultures in Maguindanao
- ✚ To know more about the people of Cotabato, Maguindanao and their way of life
- ✚ To understand and learn how to speak 'Maguindanaon'
- ✚ To know about Islam as Religion
- ✚ To know about Community Relations
- ✚ To develop skills on Community Organizing
- ✚ To learn more about the IPSP Bayanihan





**GETTING TO KNOW YOU.** Students/participants were encouraged to talk to their co-participants to establish rapport and to avoid hesitation during workshop while the training was going on.



**INTRODUCTIONS.** Students/participants were encouraged to present their partners profile in front of other participants to build confidence and to eliminate stage fright among them.

#### D. HOUSERULES AND HOST TEAMS PRESENTATION

- Objectives:**
1. To develop a set of ground rules to help everyone feel comfortable and participative. This will also guide the discussion and the processes that will take place over the next several days.
  2. To set the rules that will be observed in the duration of the activity.
  3. To guide the participants on the everyday sequence of the activity.

**Outcome:** Participants feel comfortable and participative, observe house rules and schedule of the programs.



**BRIEFING.** MAJ DANILO T FACUNDO PN(M) presented the house rules that will guide the discussions and the processes that will take place during the training program.

The facilitators oriented the students and briefed them on the activities that will be done in the next days and the rules to be observed for the smooth flow of discussions and interactions during lectures and workshops.

The Supervisor of the Hospitality and Tourism Department Mr. Christopher Acosta greeted and welcomed the students and gave the floor plan of the building, the smoking area, the location of the trash bins, the restrooms, the wash rooms, the kitchen, the THM Bar, the telephone for urgent calls, and the assistance for any problem or concern regarding the venue like the sound system, the lighting and the air-conditioning.

Activities and reminders for the next day were also announced.



**ACCOMODATION.** STI College Hospitality and Tourism Department Supervisor, Mr. Christopher Acosta, greets and welcomes the participants to their school and informs the students on the facilities and assistance of the school.

#### **E. INPUT: THE ROLE OF AFP IN PEACEBUILDING**

COL ARTHUR M BIYO PN(M)(GSC)

Deputy Brigade Commander

1st Marine Brigade

#### **Objectives:**

1. To describe the different security sector reform initiatives of the AFP.
2. To know the role of the AFP in peacebuilding.
3. To relate this role to actual events in communities in Cotabato and Maguindanao.



**AFP AS PEACEBUILDERS.** 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Brigade Deputy Commander COL ARTHUR M BIYO PN(M)(GSC) discusses the role of AFP in Peacebuilding, explaining the Concept of IPSP and the role of the security sector in its implementation.

1<sup>st</sup> Marine Brigade Deputy Commander COL ARTHUR M BIYO PN(M)(GSC) delivered the lecture on the role of AFP in Peace building. He explained the role of the security sector in its implementation to attain peace, security and development in conflict-affected areas, the need to reform it to attain peace. He further emphasized that IPSP does not only involve the AFP but the community stakeholders as well to include the academe, the CSOs, NGOs, government institutions, the business sectors and the LGUs.

COL BIYO discussed the two strategic approaches followed by the AFP in implementing the peace and security plan, that is, The Whole of Nation Approach and the People-Centered Approach.

The whole of nation approach whereby the community stakeholders' efforts, participation and involvement are sought to address the peace, security and development concerns of the country.

While the People-Centered Approach puts the people's welfare at the center of operations. Here, the enhancement of human rights and promotion of human development are given emphasis.

During the open forum, several questions were raised like the updates on the security pass card that was set up by the 1MBDE as part of security measure to be implemented by the Marines in the areas of Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat.

COL BIYO said that it is ongoing. He explained to the class the reason why it was formulated and who are the people affected by the new measure, that is, the business people traversing the Lebak, Upi, Datu Odin Sinsuat and Cotabato City routes. It might not resolve or eliminate the problem totally, but it will lessen the untoward incidences that might occur in the areas.

It would be done by contacting all the cargo vehicle owners/proprietors, instructing them to give the names of their drivers, the schedules of their dispatches. These information to be given to the detachments. They will have to present a Security Pass Card/or an I.D. card made by the ZOPADC, to be replaced every one and then so that it will not be imitated. It would also be color-coded.

According to COL BIYO, 'We have come up with procedures, policies and guidelines in implementing these measures. These drivers will also serve as force multipliers because in the highways they will be our informants also. We will become aware and updated on what is going on along those highways like vehicular troubles or accidents, fires or flood. These drivers can report to us and we can activate the REACT from the 6-member municipalities. We hope that those carjacking, hold-ups and extortions will no longer happen in the highways.'

The rescue operations training are also ongoing in the Provincial Capitol and by May there will be Disaster Response Training to be done and participated in by the 6-member municipalities – Lebak, Kalamansig, Palimbang, North Upi, South Upi, and Datu Blah Sinsuat. This is a follow-up training and the member municipalities are very happy because these municipalities along coastal lines have no capability and it has been their dream to have their people trained in disaster response and we are very supportive to these projects.'

'There are still many other things that the Marines are doing in their different areas of assignments. There are a lot of reforms and changes. We are the ones involved. We are now more on community involvement.'

Another question raised was: Do you bring arms/weapons with you during community immersion?

The speaker's answer was, 'Only for security purpose. And only at the outskirts. We don't bring it inside the places or venues of the activity. Of course, the escorts bring arms, those who bring food for the personnel, the people they have to protect, especially in the NPA areas.

'The reaction of the children to our approach, we use it as indication. If the children come to us, play with us or wave at us, then that is a good sign. But if the children are hidden by the parents when we arrive, or no one comes out of the house then that is a warning, we do not enter the area. We are sensitive to the impression or feelings of others. We see to it that we do not offend the inhabitants.'

On the question if there have been medical missions conducted. Yes, in battalion level. There was one in Matuber just last week.

'The business sector in Cotabato City are participating in terms of social responsibility, and the Civil Society Organizations are very active. In Lebak and Kalamansig the Kiwanis are with us, and we are partner with each other in our community activities like feeding, gift-giving and tree planting. The Marines have really reformed, our interactions have changed but his war-fighting

skills, our being warriors, we do not forget. If we talk about peace, let us talk peace, but if we talk about war, let us talk war.’

He then recounted the time the Brigade arrived in Lebak where they met the inhabitants and the local leaders and asked what they want, war or peace and development to which the people answered peace and development. From then on coordination continued with the Local government units and the different stakeholders.



#### **F. INPUT: COTABATO AND ITS CULTURE**

PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL

Cotabato City State Polytechnic College (CCSPC)

#### **Objective:**

1. To learn the history of Cotabato, its people and culture
2. To understand and respect the culture of the different ethnic group/people living in Cotabato and other area of MBLT-1.

Prof. Angkal discussed the topic “Cotabato and its Culture”. He presented the objective of the input, i.e. ***“To understand and respect one’s culture, a path for peace”***. He started his discussion from the History. Based on 1370 World Map, there was no Philippines and only Mindanao exist with one people under the self-ruled government, the Sultanate System. He

deliberated the ancestors of natives of Kutawato (Cotabato), the two brothers Rajah Mamalo and Rajah Tambunaway, their different descendants and their different cultures. He discussed also the Bangsamoro, who are they, and who are the Non-Bangsamoro.

Prof. Angkal proceeded his topic on Cotabato City, the origin of its name, the arrival of settlers from Luzon and Visayas, and also the arrival of colonizers and traders from different countries. After that, he discussed the different existing cultures of both Muslim and Non-Muslim Bangsamoro living in Cotabato City.



**COTABATO AND ITS CULTURE.** Prof. Raby B. Angkal speaks about Cotabato Culture; the People of Cotabato, its Royalty Arts and Values during the Community Relations and Gender Training-Cotabato Version, March 17, 2014.

## SECOND DAY: MARCH 18, 2014

**A. INPUT: UNDERSTANDING ISLAM**  
**USTADZ FAISAL DACUNGAN**  
 Director, Madrasah Ali Al Ameer

Ustadz Faisal Dacungan started his discussion by defining Islam, Muslim and Sharee'ah (Islamic Law). He also discussed the existing misconceptions and misinterpretation on Islam and Muslim. He presented the Principles and Teachings of Islam, Pillars and Articles of Faith

in Islam, Testimony of Faith and Who is Allaah in Islam. He cited also who is Allaah in other Faith, i.e. Christians in Middle East, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Ustadz Faisal deliberated who is Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) and who is Jesus Christ in Islam. He also discussed the Glorious Qur'an and the Hadith. He further presented the Qur'an translated in different language, i.e. Arabic, English, Filipino, Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Portuguese and other language. He also discussed the Ka'bah and why Muslims worldwide facing it. He said that it is to have one direction and unity.



**UNDERSTANDING ISLAM.** Director Ustadz Faizal Dacungan of Madrasah li Al Ameer teaches Islam as Religion and Basic Principles of Shariah Law.

There were topics which students were already familiar with and could easily relate to, but there were still many topics if not most that were new to them. Some learning came as a surprise to the students as they turned out to be a complete contradiction or opposite to what they knew.

Some topics were not tackled thoroughly owing to their depth or depending on the proximity to the subject matter itself and thus were skipped.

The speakers were able to catch the attention of the students and participants because of the interactive method of teaching and the workshops and the open forum after the lecture.

Some topics are just too broad, deep, and new/unfamiliar to the participants especially the Religion and Culture of Cotabato and Maguindanao.

**B. INPUT: UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY**

FR. CLIFFORD BAIRA, DCC

Expert on Christianity and Islamic Studies

Fr. Clifford Baira, DCC started his presentation on Jesus Christ, his Jewish Social World and his Message of Compassion and Love. He further discussed the Church teachings on dialogue, its relationship to other non-Christian religions, and proposed attitudes toward other religions. He also presented some initiatives implemented in Cotabato to strengthen the relationships of the Church to the community and to support the peace building activities.



**THIRD DAY: MARCH 19, 2014**

**A. INPUT: GENDER IN THE CONTEXT OF ISLAM**

USTADZA ALBAYA G. BADRUDIN

City Division, DepED

One of the speakers on the topic Gender and Development, Ustadza Albaya Badrudin of DEPED, discussed the Gender in the Context of Islam.

She started her lecture by giving a brief History of Islam starting from the creation of Angels- the first creation of God (Allah), then the creation of man and woman. The Historical Perspective she discussed through a diagram shows the origin of the Muslims and the Christians. She further discussed the status of women in the period of Jahiliya (Period of Ignorance) in the different parts of the world and laws, i.e. India, Ancient Greece, China, Judaism, Roman Law, Arabia and Christianity. Jahiliya period was before the revelation of

the Holy Qur'an. When the Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) through Angel Jibril, the status of women was elevated and their rights were protected. Islam liberated the women from shackles. There is specific verse in the Qur'an pertaining to woman, i.e. Surah An-Nisa.

She continued her discussion on Gender Roles in Development which is classified in four aspects, i.e. Spiritual, Social, Economic and Political. She presented the rights of women in Islamic perspectives. She cited different famous women during the time of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) who play vital roles in the establishment of Muslim communities and protection of women's rights. Men and women have complementary roles. They need one another in pursuing peace and development within their self, their families, communities, the country and the Ummah as well.

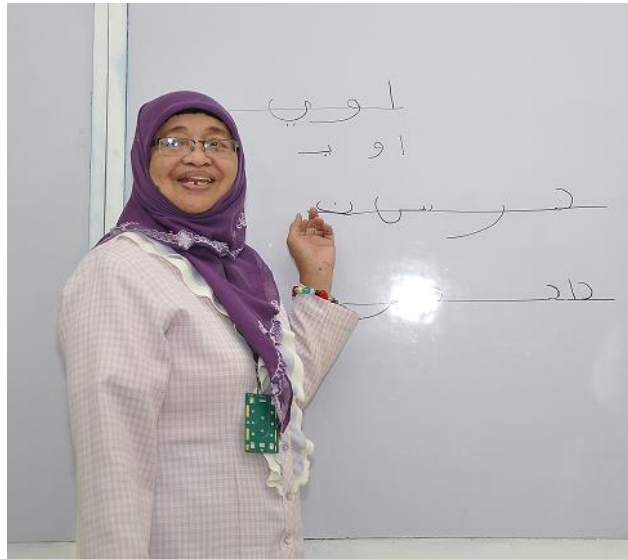


The students were shocked with the knowledge of the treatment/status of women in other parts of the world in the ancient times especially before the Islam was practiced.

There were a lot of questions that came up after the lecture like on the topic of polygamy by the Muslim male, what are the requisites; is it important to obtain the approval of the first wife? What are the grounds for divorce? What are the punishments if the wife will not allow the husband to re-marry? Among many others.

To these questions the speaker answered broadly and with additional information like how the women should be treated, the role of men as protectors and providers of women.

Before her time run out Ustadza Badrodin taught the class Basic Arabic writing and reading. The students were able to read and write what she had written on the board.



**LEARN ARABIC.** Ustadza Albaya G. Badrudin of DepED teaches Basic Arabic to the participants of CRT-Cotabato Version held at STI College, Cotabato City, March 19, 2014.

**Message:** 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Brigade Commander Emmanuel Salamat

1<sup>st</sup> Marine Brigade Commander Emmanuel Salamat arrived. He greeted and welcomed everyone to the CRT.

He checked on the presence of the implementing partners – The Asia Foundation, the Australian Aid, the 4C's , the representatives from the LGUs, the PNP, the Marines and the Philippine Army - CMO Philippine Battalion.

Col. Salamat talked on the campaign of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Brigade, its area of responsibility: the three (3) municipalities of Sultan Kudarat - Lebak, Kalamansig and Palimbang, and the three (3) coastal Municipalities of Maguindanao - the North and South Upi, Datu Blah Sinsuat and Cotabato City.

He said that they have a different approach on the security arrangement in the cities and the coastal towns and the Brigade's campaign plan on the peace and security to push for the peaceful transformation

He spoke on the Brigades' campaign plan which is the peace and development. To push for the development, peaceful transformation of conflict and violent environment to a peaceful environment.

The Zone of Peace and Development Council which aims to achieve and create an ambiance of peace and progress.



**B. INPUT: GENDER AWARENESS AND DEVELOPMENT**

SPO1 LIZA B SIVA

Cotabato City Police Office (CCPO)

SPO1 Liza B Siva started her topic by discussing what is Gender and Development (GAD) and defining and differentiating Gender and Sex. She also discussed the difference between Man and Woman. She further defined Gender Issues, Gender Equality, Gender Identity, Gender Roles and Gender Relations.

She deliberated different Gender Instruments – laws and policies promoting gender equality. She also discussed how to mainstream GAD in the development planning process. There are four possible entry point in gender mainstreaming – Policy, People, Enabling Mechanisms, and Program and Projects.



**CONFLICT MITIGATION.** Baina Samayatin, Executive Director of MWDECC and one of the facilitators in the training, shares about some of her experiences in Conflict Mitigation.

**C. INPUT: GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT**

1LT MIRASOL C BANAGUAS PN(M)  
GAD Officer, Philippine Marine Corps

1LT Mirasol Banaguas PN(M) facilitated first an ice breaker before proceeding to her input. After that, a short Video Clip on the difference between a man and a woman was played. A workshop on the difference between a man and woman – Physiological, Psychological, Emotional and Spiritual – followed. She grouped the participants into two and provided them with manila paper and pentel pen. Reporting followed. Below is the consolidated results of the workshop.

	<b>MAN</b>	<b>WOMAN</b>
<b>Physiological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Men by nature are polygamous</li> <li>• Strong/Strongly built</li> <li>• Focused</li> <li>• Less stable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women designed to 1 man only</li> <li>• Weak in form/beauty built</li> <li>• Multi-task</li> <li>• Critical Thinker</li> <li>• More stable</li> </ul>
<b>Psychological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Straightforward/less words</li> <li>• Highly principled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Witty/meticulous</li> <li>• Less principled</li> <li>• Easy to change mind</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of leadership</li> <li>• Not easily move</li> <li>• Secretive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passive style in leadership</li> <li>• Sensitive</li> <li>• Soft-hearted</li> <li>• dramatic</li> </ul>
<b>Emotional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stronger compare to men</li> <li>• Less control</li> <li>• Sensitive</li> </ul>
<b>Spiritual</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less time for prayer and church activity</li> <li>• Mostly head of the church</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious/prayerful</li> <li>• Female are expected to follow</li> </ul>

After the reporting, 1Lt Banaguas proceeded to her input. She discussed what is Development, Gender Equality, What is Sex and Gender and their differences, Gender Issues and Challenges that lie ahead, what is GAD, and Gender Sensitivity.

She elaborated the content of different GAD Related Laws, i.e. CEDAW, Magna Carta of Women (R.A. 9710), Violence Against Women and Children Act (R.A. 7262), Women in Development and Nation-Building Act (R.A. 7192), R.A. 10398 (An Act declaring November 25 of every year as “National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children”), and The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Act of 2012 (R.A. 10354). She presented also Policies, Guidelines and Procedures in the Disposition of Rape, Sexual Harassment and other Sexually Related Cases in the AFP.



#### **D. INPUT: GENDER ANALYSIS**

NADINE RAGONJAN

Program Officer, The Asia Foundation (TAF)

Ms. Nadine Ragonjan gave an input on Gender Analysis. She discussed why gender analysis is necessary in implementing a project or activity. She further discussed the Six (6) Domain of Gender Analysis, i.e. 1) Access to and control over resources; 2) Knowledge, beliefs, perceptions; 3) Practices and participation; 4) Time and space; 5) Legal rights and status, and 6) Leadership and decision-making.

After the Input, she distributed to the participants the Gender Analysis Matrix Form and asked them to conduct Gender Analysis in the 2 Cases she presented. Below are the cases:

**Case No. 1:** You are to conduct a medical-dental mission in one barangay in the Municipality of DBS, Maguindanao. In preparing for the activity, conduct a gender analysis using the 6 domains.

**Case No. 2:** A rido case between two powerful political clans has been reported in Cotabato City. A joint task force was formed to mitigate the conflict. Before taking any action, conduct a gender analysis using the 6 domains



**GENDER ANALYSIS.** Ms. Nadine Ragonjan, Program Officer of The Asia Foundation, facilitating the Gender Analysis during the Community Relations and Gender Training - Cotabato City Version.

**FOURTH DAY: MARCH 20, 2014**

**A. INPUT: CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**

ABDULNASSER B. BINASING  
Training Specialist  
Kadtuntaya Foundation, Inc. (KFI)

Mr. Abdunasser B. Binasing gave the input on Conflict Management. He started his input by giving a brief history of the conflict in Mindanao. He gave the background of the arm conflicts in Mindanao, the peace negotiations between the government and the Moro fronts as well as the coming up of the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro. He also gave input on Understanding Clan and Community Conflicts.

After that, he proceeded to his input on Peace, Conflict and Violence; Conflict Management. He elaborated the definition of Peace, Concept of Conflict, Goals and Behavior, Basic Principles of Conflict, Levels of Conflict, and Nature of Contemporary Conflicts. He also discussed the Definition and Category of Violence.

Discussion on Conflict Management followed. Conflict Management; Conflict Settlement; Conflict Resolution, and Conflict Transformation were defined, differentiated and given with some examples. Conflict Management is Peacekeeping; Conflict Settlement is Peacemaking; Conflict Resolution is Peace Building, and Conflict Transformation is Reconciliation and Healing. He presented the Conflict Continuum and Peace Building Map, and the 4 Interdependent Dimension of Transformation – Personal, Relational, Structural and Cultural.



**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT.** Mr. Abdunasser B. Binasing gives input on Conflict Management.

## **B. INPUT: HUMAN RIGHTS**

MR. MIGUEL A. PEÑALOZA  
Information Officer III  
Chief-Designate, Investigation Division  
Commission on Human Rights - Region XII

Mr. Miguel A. Peñaloza of CHR Region XII started the lecture by playing a 10-minute video film on Human Rights. It told the History of Human Rights from its evolution from the ancient times to its development and application in the present time. People from the streets from different walks of life were interviewed as to their understanding or definition of Human Rights. Many had difficult answering. Others said it is something that we have but take for granted, while others answered he will do his homework of searching for its meaning. The video presentation then defined each word in the phrase, thus, **Human** – a member of the homo sapiens species; a man, woman or child; a person. And Rights – things you are entitled to or allowed; freedoms that are guaranteed.

**Human Rights** – the rights you have simply because you are human. One that is applied to everyone.

The video said that human rights did not exist then. It was only after Cyrus the Great declared it and gave freedom to the slaves. It was written in the Cylinder of Cyrus. The United Nations enumerated thirty (30) human rights.

It is ironic though because despite of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, why are there still poverty, discrimination, violence, war, famine, oppression, slavery, corruption, torture, among many inhumane forms and manifestations of human rights violations, because there is one problem. When it was signed it had no force of law. It was optional. Unless these rights have meaning in each individual's little world, they have little meaning anywhere. The video ended with the words – Know Your Rights.

The Resource Person proceeded to his input on Basic Human Rights. The basic insights starting with the history during the ancient time up to United Nations up to present day struggles to achieve and enjoy them as 'People live only full lives in the lights of human rights'.

The Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004 (Anti-VAWC or R.A. 9262) defined the meaning of violence against their fragile sector of society, what it includes, the crimes that are considered violence against them, the aggravating circumstances and the penalties. It also described the syndromes of battered woman, the procedure in applying for protection and the custodies fro children.

Sexual Harassment Law or R.A. 7877, Anti-Sexual Harassment defines sexual harassment, how it is committed and the processes involved in filing cases.

Mr. Peñaloza ended his lecture by giving the following pnemonics – A.I.M. – W.E.T. – I.H.O for guidance and easy recall of the applicability of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law.

**A** – Authority  
**I** – Influence  
**M** – Moral Ascendancy

**W** – Work-Related  
**E** – Educational  
**T** – Training Environment/  
Institution

**I** – Intimidation  
**H** – Hostile  
**O** – Offensive  
Environment



**HUMAN RIGHTS.** Mr. Miguel A. Peñaloza gives input on Human Rights during the Community Relations and Gender Training-Cotabato.

### **C. INPUT: UPDATES ON THE PEACE PROCESS**

**RAHIB L. KUDTO**  
Chairman, 4C's

Mr. Rahib L. Kudto started his input by giving a brief background on the peace negotiation between the government and the MILF, how it started and updates on its present status. He discussed the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) and its annexes, i.e. Transitional Modalities and Arrangements, Revenue Generation and Wealth Sharing, Power Sharing and Normalization.

Under the FAB, he discussed the definition of Bangsamoro, the Ministerial form of government, the asymmetrical relationship with the Philippines, the establishment of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission, Bangsamoro Basic Law, Transition Authority and Regular Government. He also presented the areas to be covered by the Bangsamoro territory – the present geographical area of the ARMM and the other contiguous area that may petition for its inclusion.

In Normalization, he said that it is a process whereby communities can achieve their desired quality of life, which includes the pursuit of sustainable livelihood and political participation. It aims to ensure human security in the Bangsamoro free from fear of violence or crime. Police force shall be established and law enforcement functions shall be transferred gradually to them from the AFP.

Under Wealth Sharing topic, it includes the Block Grant, Sources of Revenue, Percentage of Sharing between the Central Government and the Bangsamoro, and the power granted to the Bangsamoro in terms of revenue generation.

In Power Sharing, the topic includes Reserved Powers, Concurrent Powers and Exclusive Powers. He also discussed the Intergovernmental Relations, Governance Structure of the Bangsamoro, and Transportation and Communication.



**UPDATES ON THE PEACE PROCESS.** Mr. Rahib L. Kudto, UNYPAD National President & 4C's Chairman delivering his updates on the status of the GPH and MILF Peace Process.

Before proceeding to questions and answers, an ice breaker was given by the Facilitator. There were lot of questions thrown to the resource person since the topic is interesting and controversial and directly affecting the participants. With the enough knowledge of the Resource Person, he satisfactorily answered all the questions raised by the participants.

The fourth day of the training was ended with the awarding of Certificate of Appreciation to the Resource Persons and pictorials with him.

## FIFTH DAY: MARCH 21, 2014

### A. INPUT: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

MS. NOREANNE LOU "GURLIE" FRONDOZA  
City Tourism Officer  
Cotabato City Government

#### **Activity 1: Identifying, Relating and Public Speaking**

##### **Objectives:**

1. For the participant to be able to speak on a subject that is familiar to him/her.
2. To be able to speak in front with confidence.
3. To get out of one's comfort zones.

##### **Mechanics:**

- ✚ Ms. Noreanne Lou Frondoza asked everyone to get a small item from their bags that can describe themselves. She gave 1 minute to prepare their speech and 1 minute to speak on it in front.
- ✚ The students searched for items from their bags that can best describe themselves. Some were able to relate it to himself or identify himself with the item. Others were able to explain but only the reason or importance of the item or the thing to him, not so much explaining why he considers the thing as describing him.

##### **Outputs:**

- ❖ Among the items presented which describe self are: **notebook** – because outside it seems so blank and unimportant, but once it is opened and seen the leaves with its contents, that is the time, it will be appreciated or the values of it realized. The person who was identified with it is a low – profile person who wants to stay or work behind the scenes, not much comfortable/fitted with the limelight or working in front of the camera, wants to keep privacy and very deep and complex.
- ❖ Another participant identified self with **nail-cutter** – because even though it is not sharp, it has pangs, just like a Marine. It observes and plans his deed silently, but when it is bitten or duty calls, it strikes using its pangs.
- ❖ The speaker identifies herself with the **cellphone** because it is a symbol of communication and she is a communicator, works as one by telling people about things, giving information and people use the cellphone to communicate with her and vice-versa.
- ❖ The photographer/documenter identifies his self with his **camera** because it is with him all the time and he uses it in work and in fun.

- ❖ The representative from LGU-Upi Mr. Josefino Dabuco identifies his self with the **bottle of mineral water** because it describes his personality being open and overflowing once it is opened, it alleviates depression and since it is comes from Nature's spring, therefore it is a product of Almighty God.
- ❖ The representative from LGU-Pob. 5 Brgy. Chairman Norma Yap identifies herself with her **watch** because she is time-conscious with so many activities to attend to each day, and she carries it with her wherever she goes and she looks at her watch every time.

After that, an Input on Effective Communication followed. Ms. Frondoza defined first what is Communication, discussed the Shannon's Communication Model and different Barriers in Communication. Then she proceed to discuss the Effective Communication including the Effective Communications Model and Levels of Communication. She thoroughly elaborated the different Effective Communication Skills, i.e. 1) Listening; 2) Nonverbal Communication; 3) Managing Stress, and 4) Emotional Awareness.



**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.** Ms. Noreanne Lou Frondoza asked the participants to find an item that can best describe themselves.

## **Activity 2: Role Play (Communication Management)**

### **Objectives:**

1. To formulate a quality core message
2. To be able to deliver the right message to the persons concerned
3. To demonstrate qualities of effective public speaking
4. To build confidence as a key to effective presentation and speaking

## Scenarios:

- ❖ Students/Participants will write a letter address to someone whose participation they badly need for the success of their activity. One group from the Mayor's Office will ask for the support of the Municipal Police (which is hesitant to do so because of time element or conflict in schedule) to secure an upcoming festival.
- ❖ Another group will handle a situation wherein the person whose approval they seek is really denied because of recently-approved similar activity.
- ❖ Another group is tasked to portray a scenario where the person whose cooperation they seek to obtain but cannot do so for lack of funds. Using the rules on effective communication, the group will receive the refusal in a way that will not offend the other person and will not ruin relationship and future projects or programs.

## Outcome:

- ✚ Participants were able to perform their respective roles.
- ✚ The person tasked to write the letter addressed to the person concerned was able to deliver the message to the person concerned.
- ✚ The task was accomplished by conveying the right message to the person whose approval or support is being sought by the group.



**ROLE PLAYING.** The participants are in a role-play wherein representatives from the Local Government (left and right) are asking for the support of the Chief of Police to provide security on their upcoming activity. The Chief of Police is hesitant to give her approval because of conflict of schedule and the representatives from LGU will seek the cooperation of the PNP chief using the Effective Communication Skills.

**B. INPUT: LOCAL PEACE AND ORDER COUNCIL  
DISASTER AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT**

ANICETO RASALAN  
Secretary to the Mayor, Cotabato City

As an introduction, Sec. Aniceto Rasalan presented the Incident Command System (ICS) of NDRRMC and Department of National Defense – background, concepts, principles and features, capabilities, organization, facilities and common understanding.

After that, Sec. Rasalan gave the input on Local Peace and Order Council/Disaster and Crisis Management. He discussed the Crisis Management Concepts and Policies He defined what is Crisis and Crisis Management, and discussed the Characteristics of Crisis, Crisis Needs, Types of Crisis, General Tasking in Crisis Management, Legal Bases and Crisis Management Policies. He further tackled the Crisis Management Committee (CMC) that includes its Composition, Structure, Functions, Powers and Limitations. He also presented different actions to be taken during crisis.

Sec. Rasalan discussed also the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). He presented its Framework, definition and types of Hazard, what is Vulnerability, Risk, Capacity and underlying causes of Disaster. He further discussed Disaster Management Concepts – Preparedness, Mitigation, Prevention, Response, Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction – and Disaster Preparedness Framework.



**LOCAL PEACE AND ORDER COUNCIL.** Secretary to the Mayor, Aniceto Rasalan talks about the Local Peace and Order Council/ Coordinating Council, Disaster and Crisis Management during the Community Relations Training, March 21, 2014.

**C. INPUT: IPSP “BAYANIHAN”**

1LT EMERY TORRE PN (M)  
Training Admin/Personnel Officer  
Marine Corps Training Center

1Lt Emery Torre, PN (M) discussed the topic on IPSP or Internal Peace and Security Plan-Bayanihan.

He started by showing a picture of Bayanihan where a group of people of various ages and profession all together carrying a house made of light materials on their shoulders.

Lt. Torre then asked the participants the following questions: Why is the policemen at the front? Why is the old person in front? Why is the doctor at the back? Why is the woman and the child at the center?

To the questions, the participants answered the importance of each person in the undertaking or the load they were carrying according to their professions, capacities and expectations by the community and the society as a whole.

The policeman at the front – because he is tasked with protecting and securing the community; the old person at the front – because he has the capacity to carry out the tasks and responsibility to the society, the doctor at the back – because he is tasked with the welfare and health of the members of the community, and the woman and child at the center – to help carry out the tasks in the society and to be protected being the members who belong to the fragile sector.

The lecturer then asked the participants “What is IPSP”? And gives its background and concept.

Someone was asked to draw a face of a woman and the participants were asked – what is the feature that mostly draws attention? The class answered – the eyes. Another – the nose. The lecturer explained that the eyes is the focus while the nose is the paradigm shift.

Applying the activity to the goal is – Where will we focus in winning the peace? Where do we operate and how and who will do the operations – to which the students answered CMO or Civil Military Operations/Operators.

Another student is then asked to draw a whole body of a man. The concept of winning the peace is applied using this strategy: dividing the image into three parts – brain, heart and body. The brain – from which the AFP’s mission to achieve peace through IPSP originates. Thus, military units/Battalions are ordered to conduct CMT Operations. Next is the heart from which desire to obtain peace originates; and last, the body which does the action of winning the peace.

The question then is? Are we prepared?

The lecturer then drew a heart and divided it into two and introduced the two approaches – the Whole of Nation Approach and the People-Centered Approach. The process explained and the message conveyed and received, to wit, Peace and Security can be fully achieved through the concerted and united efforts of all stakeholders.

The lecture was concluded with everyone reciting the line and with an assignment for the following day to draw a face that represents him and explain it to the class.



**IPSP “BAYANIHAN.** The Resource Person asked one of the participants to draw a face of a woman and further asked them, what is the feature that mostly draws attention?

### **SIXTH DAY: MARCH 22, 2014**

#### **A. INPUT: REQUISITE SKILLS FOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

1LT EMERY TORRE PN (M)  
Training Admin/Personnel Officer  
Marine Corps Training Center

#### **Topic: Stakeholder Analysis**

Stakeholders Analysis is a requisite Skill for the conduct of Community Relations and Community Organizing. The Training in its simplified version is in preparation for the immersion.

1Lt Emery Torre PN (M) started the lecture on stakeholders' analysis by playing the Official CRT Hymn composed by Reyes in Jolo, Sulu followed by a Video Presentation entitled "Winning the Peace". He proceeded by recounting his earlier experiences in the job from when he was first assigned to do the task of making a stakeholder analysis or matrix.

Lt Torre recalled being baffled with the term and much so by being order to make one, to which he humbly admitted to his superiors that he did not know what it is and how it is done.

He then shared to the class the concept of stakeholders' analysis or matrix and how it was done as taught by his superiors in the headquarters in Manila.

Each participant was asked to introduce self and to tell who or what unit he/she belongs to. They were encouraged to introduce themselves in local dialect because during immersion "we will go to the grassroots level".

The concept was discussed through an example of a given endeavor or project. Example given was the conduct of a Medcap.

The Medcap then is the Issue.

A table was drawn with four (4) columns: stakeholders, interest, resources, and capacity.

The students were asked to fill in the appropriate entry to each column. With the Medcap as the issue, the columns were filled up with the following:

**Stakeholders** – children, adult-men and women, senior citizen;

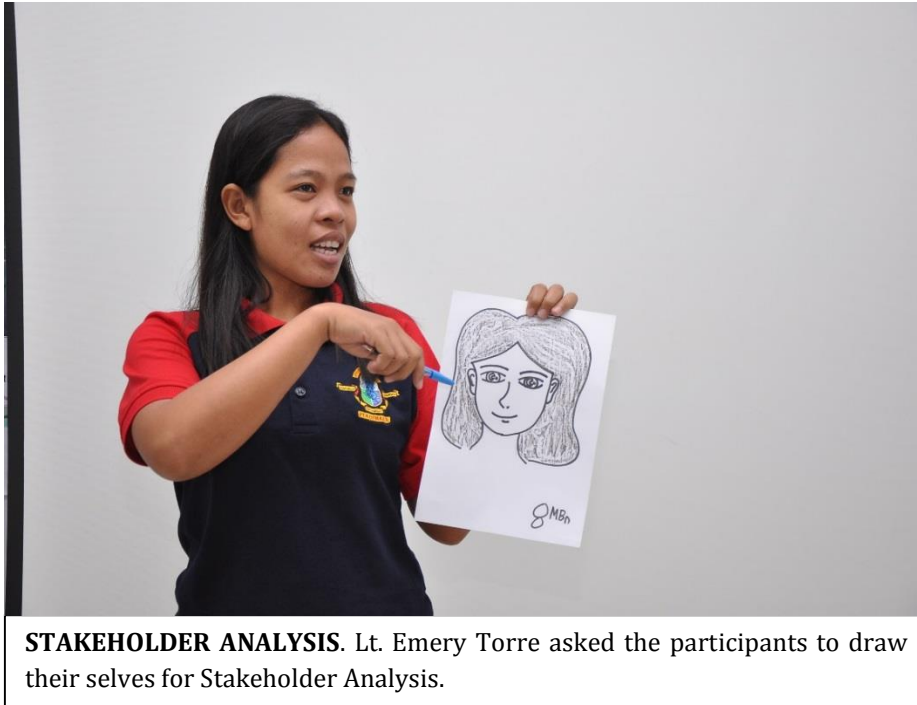
**Interest** – to avail of the free medical services/ supplies given by the organizers;

**Resources** – medicines, supplies, medical practitioners, nurses, attendants, transportation;

**Capacity** – the availability of those resources and the funds needed to be able to conduct the said activity.

With the preceding issue as sample, the participants were able to grasp the concept of stakeholder analysis or matrix and how to apply it to their issue or mission.

The class were divided into five (5) groups with different issues: Immersion, Sports Fest, Feeding Program, Medcap, and Tree Planting and gave a report and sample of their stakeholder analysis.



**STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS.** Lt. Emery Torre asked the participants to draw their selves for Stakeholder Analysis.

**Topic: Participating in Dialogue**

On the topic Participating in Dialogue, Lt. Emery Torre cited the dos and don'ts in effective Dialogue.

The class were divided into 3 groups for group activity with the following scenarios: **Social Issues** – Drugs; for **Peace and Order** – Bomb Threat; **Environment Causes** – Waste Management.

Each group in an assigned issue identified causes of the problem and the corresponding solutions and provided recommendations or actions to address the problem.

**Plenary/Output:**

**1. Social Issue: Drug**

Recommendations/Solutions:

- Make the people aware of the cause and effects of illegal drugs;
- involvement in productive and worthy activities;
- Counselling for couples/parents and stricter implementation of checkpoints so that entry of drugs are blocked.
- Conduct of information drive and dissemination of bad effects of drug addiction
- Conduct of tournaments and recreational activities
- Launching livelihood projects,

- Conducting seminars to couples
- Apprehending the users and pushers.

## 2. Peace and Order: Bomb Threat

Causes	Effects	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clan wars or rido</li> <li>▪ Extortion</li> <li>▪ Political rivalry</li> <li>▪ Poor security measures, that is, poor checkpoints, poor foot patrol, poor roving patrols, lack of covert security</li> <li>▪ Terrorism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collateral damage to life and property</li> <li>▪ Poor investor or withdrawal of investors</li> <li>▪ Innocent civilians will be affected</li> <li>▪ Establishments and business will be affected</li> <li>▪ Security will become vulnerable and offenders will tend to commit same crimes again and again.</li> <li>▪ There will be an economic breakdown and unsafe environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Civilians to report to local authorities any suspicious items and/or personalities</li> <li>▪ Creation of task force PNP/AFP</li> <li>▪ Information dissemination</li> <li>▪ Maximize utilization of intelligence fund</li> <li>▪ Installation of CCTCs</li> <li>▪ Conduct of random checkpoints</li> <li>▪ Maximize visibility factors</li> <li>▪ Awareness seminar to AFP and PNP</li> <li>▪ Regular deployment of K-9 units/bomb squads.</li> </ul>

## 3. Environment: Waste Management

Causes	Effects	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improper waste disposal</li> <li>▪ Oil spills</li> <li>▪ Dynamite fishing</li> <li>▪ Illegal Logging/quarrying</li> <li>▪ Deforestation/kaingin system</li> <li>▪ Global Warning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Flood and pollution</li> <li>▪ Water pollution and destruction of aquatic and marine life</li> <li>▪ Fish kill and marine life extinction</li> <li>▪ Soil erosion/landslide</li> <li>▪ Destruction of forest</li> <li>▪ Extinction of other species</li> <li>▪ Climate change</li> <li>▪ Imbalance in nature and ecosystem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct dialogue with the Barangay Leaders</li> <li>▪ Information dissemination</li> <li>▪ Waste Segregation</li> <li>▪ Formulation of Barangay Policies/Ordinance (Tapat Ko, Linis Ko) Reduce, Reuse and Recycle)</li> <li>▪ Organizing the purok leaders</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Destruction of life in general</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct TI and E regarding awareness on proper waste disposal</li> <li>▪ Placement of trash cans for “nabubulok at di-nabubulok)</li> <li>▪ Scheduling of throwing/disposing and collection of waste</li> <li>▪ Placement of signage</li> </ul>
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The speaker then added inputs to the solutions presented by the different groups, asked the class why he asked earlier for the effects is so that the participants will have something to disseminate. The speaker congratulated all the groups for jobs well done.

**D. INPUT: IMMERSION AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**

1LT EMERY TORRE PN (M)  
 Training Admin/Personnel Officer  
 Marine Corps Training Center

The lecturer introduces the topic Community Immersion/Reentry and Community Organizing saying that all the inputs or insights gained from the Community Relations Training will be applied in the Immersion and Community Organizing.

Immersion is defined and its objectives given. The Immersion is done through community organizing and its rationale. The background, phases or timeline and the dos and don'ts during community organizing were emphasized.

The speaker asked the participants the rationale of immersing in the community itself instead of just observing from the outside, to which the students answered – so that the organizers can know their insides or ‘hinaings’.

The three phases of organizing, that is, organization, empowerment and sustainment were discussed in thorough.

In the organization phase, wherein the goal is – let the people unite for a common good the steps and the actions to be taken, that is, from area selection to the community organizing and barangay identification to plans implementation were discussed. A list of dos and don'ts during community organizing were presented.

In the empowerment phase, where the goal is to let the people lead in the community, emphasis is given to identifying the resources as well as the people, key persons, agencies that can be tapped or to coordinate with, the identification of resources potential for the success of the project and the trainings and supervisions to be provided to the movers or persons who will do the jobs.

The sustainment phase where the goal is to sustain the existing organization and encourage the members to maintain the project deals on the monitoring of the project and the people or members of the community benefitting the project, seeing to it that the organization is strong and the commitment to the maintenance and development of the project is instilled in them so they will endeavor to preserve it, enjoying its benefits and be encouraged and inspired to continue/ maintain the project and in time start another one that will benefit the present and the generations to come.

A sample timeline is provided where students can allocate time for each phase of the community organizing. 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> week for the Phase 1 or Organizing Phase, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> week for the Empowerment Phase and 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> week for the Sustainment week.

The lecturer ended with the line – “The Best CMO Operator is a Disciplined Soldier”.



**INPUT ON IMMERSION AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING. 1LT EMERY TORRE PN (M) gives input on Immersion and Community Organizing during the conduct of Community Relations and Gender Training-Cotabato Version**

## SEVENTH, EIGHT & NINETH DAY: MARCH 23-25, 2014

### **A. COMMUNITY IMMERSION**

#### **Objectives:**

1. To create an awareness and involvement among various sectors of the community and eventually gain their genuine commitment to help and participate in the entire process of immersion/reentry;
2. To develop an effective re-entry plan;
3. To identify the role of CRT core team;
4. To develop basic documentation skills

Before the departure, the CRT participants had their pictorials. They take their pictorials in the old City Hall, Grand Mosque and The People's Palace.

The participants were divided into three groups or teams with eleven (11) members for Team Cotabato, nine (9) members for Team Upi, and twelve (12) members for Team Datu Blah Sinsuat.

The three teams all first assembled at the Headquarters of Marine Battalion Landing Team at Padlan Compound, Cotabato City for a briefing by the facilitators and the team leaders.

Students/Participants bound for Immersion to different areas of assignments boarded on three different military vehicles - one for Poblacion 5 in Cotabato City, one for Brgy. Rempes, North Upi, and one for Datu Blah Sinsuat Municipality.

The teams left the headquarters at 9:15 a.m. with the equipment needed for the activities to be done in the areas of immersion and personal things for a 2-day stay and immersion with the community.

The teams bound for Bgy. Rempes, Upi and Datu Blah Sinsuat went on convoy and stopped over at 21<sup>st</sup> company detachment at Brgy. Mirab, North Upi, Maguindanao for fuel to be used on the pump boats in going to Bgy. Tubuan from Bgy. Pura in Datu Blah Sinsuat Municipality.

The convoy proceeded on their way but Team Datu Blah Sinsuat did another stopover at the public market of Upi to buy items for the activities in Datu Blah like rice, dressed chicken, spices for the 'arrozcaldo' for the children, biscuits and candies for the during parlor games.

Rubber tree seedlings were also bought for the tree planting in Datu Blah Sinsuat.

The travel for the Municipality of Datu Blah Sinsuat was long and hard. Under the heat of the sun, the military vehicle carrying 24 passengers traversed the newly-made narrow road.

The road was made up of soil and rocks from the dug/sliced portions of the mountain.



**TEAM UPI.** The team/participants bound for Barangay Rempes, North Upi did a stopover at the 21<sup>st</sup> Marine Coy at Barangay Mirab, North Upi.

Because it was a dry and hot afternoon the soil was dry and dusty but it was an advantage in contrast if it were raining which would have made the road wet and slippery and more dangerous for the vehicle as the roads were narrow and the climb up and going down were so intense and there were portions of the mountains which were so stiff.

Two members of the Team DBS namely Nasser Adam and Kinga Bandon, gave information about the place and served as the travel guide. They pointed to the boundaries of the municipalities and the towns. Mr. Adam pointed the properties belonging to prominent people of the Municipalities including that of the Mayor and the Vice Mayor.

### **THE DATU BLAH SINSUAT TEAM**

The DBS Team arrived at Brgy. Pura at 1:05pm. The Barangay, where the Municipal Hall is located and where the team boarded pump boats in going to Brgy. Tubuan – the area of immersion. The team had to wait for about 20 minutes for the pump boats. The pump boats could carry about 4-5 persons but with the stuff that they had, they had to limit the passengers for each pump boat so there were about 6 batches.

The first batch arrived in Brgy. Tubuan at about 1:33 pm. When the last batch had arrived in Brgy. Tubuan, they met with the Vice-Mayor and a Municipal Councilor and did a courtesy call and dialogue with the local Barangay Officials.

The team members presented their intension and since there was a prior talk and courtesy call with the Municipal Mayor and there was prior coordination with the local officials, the team was able to proceed with the activities.

A house-to-house invitation was done by the group telling the residents that there will be a film showing that night and informing them of feeding activity and parlor games for the children, and a First Aid Training the next day.

The community served snacks and dinner for the team. And there were vacant houses for the team to stay for the night.

The film-showing equipment were set-up for the film-showing. There was a large number of viewers – children and adult. The first film shown was an animation entitled 'Frozen'. It was very silent though because there was no sound that came out of the speaker during the first half of the film. While the film was being shown, it was being fix and the sound emerged. The film was replayed. After about an hour, some residents asked if there is a comedy or something that is livelier because not everyone seemed to enjoy or relate with the film. But there was none and the film finally ended.



**FILM SHOWING.** The residents of Brgy. Tubuan who came to Tubuan Elem. School Gym to watch the film 'Frozen' provided by the Team DBS during the Immersion/Reentry Activity on the night of March 24, 2014 at Bgy. Tubuan, Municipality of Datu Blah Sinsuat.

Another film was shown, an action film but after about 25 minutes, the screen went off. The fuel on the generator run out. The viewers had to go home. It was late anyway, and the people were sleepy and it was 10:00 pm and it was a rare occasion that they sleep late since there is no electricity in the area and the source of power by some are generator and the source of light are solar lights. Others do not mind as they just sleep early. There are some who own DVD. There is no use for cellphones as there is no cell site or signal in the area.

Foremost among the problem of the residents of Datu Blah Sinsuat is their access to water. Not much for the water for washing as there are streams near but the water for drinking and cooking. The residents have to walk about 300-500 meters depending on where they come from to get water from the source that is a spring on the side of the mountain.

The people improvised it by putting up a structure on the source and installed a hose/pole to the structure. However it is still far from their houses. The residents said, some years back they tried to attach a hose, about 300 meters, but the water would not come out. During afternoon, the residents, especially the women quarrel because of the scarcity of water supply.

The next day the teams already set for the activity for the day like tree planting, parlor games, gift-giving, feeding, and First Aid training.



**TREE PLANTING.** Team DBS together with the residents and the Barangay Chairman (1<sup>st</sup> from right) plant rubber trees at Brgy. Tubuan, Datu Blah Sinsuat, Maguindanao, March 25, 2014 during the Immersion Phase of Community Relations and Gender Training-Cotabato Version.



**PARLOR GAMES.** The children of Datu Blah Sinsuat municipality playing games facilitated by the Marines and the representatives from Local Government Unit during the Community Relations and Gender Training Immersion/Reentry Phase held on March 25, 2014 at Datu Blah Sinsuat Municipality.

The team was divided into groups to prepare for the activities. A team went on tree planting and viewing of the water source, and another team for the cooking and another for the set-up of parlor games.



**COOKING COMMITTEE.** A marine soldier preparing 'arrozcaldo' for the children assisted by the women of Barangay Tubuan, Datu Blah Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

When the tree planting team went back the parlor games was started. There were already a large number of children and parents present. After which a feeding activity was done assisted by the parents of the children.

While the parlor games were going on, the First Aid Training was also conducted. It was planned to be given to Barangay Tanod but there were only a few of them who were present so it was agreed that local officials and residents be included in the First Aid Training.



**FIRST AID TRAINING.** A Marine soldier from 21<sup>st</sup> Company of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-I conducts First Aid Training to Brgy. Tanod, local official and residents of Brgy. Tubuan, Datu Blah Sinsuat Municipality during the immersion phase of Community Relations and Gender Training, March 25, 2014.

## **THE COTABATO CITY TEAM**

The Team Cotabato first planned on going to Poblacion 9 to do their Immersion Activity, but it was not coordinated well so it was decided to have their immersion at Brgy. Poblacion 5 instead. The Barangay headed by Ms. Norma Yap.

During the morning, the group had a courtesy call, attended the morning colors followed by the 'pulong-pulong by the Brgy. Officials, and the profiling of the Barangay.

The group then proceeded on a house-to-house sighting and went on a Ronda Patrol together with the mobile patrol.

The group was not able to conduct a film showing as there was no equipment available and proceeded to women and youth organizing.

There were bags donated by the Belinda Pharmacy and the group was able to give to each child. The group also held parlor games for the kids, feeding program and literacy lessons.



**BAG DISTRIBUTION.** The kids at Poblacion 5, Cotabato City receive bags donated by Belinda Pharmacy through the Team Cotabato during Immersion Phase as part of the Community Relations and Gender Training held on March 17-26, 2014 at Cotabato City.

The Kalipi or women's group gave a dance number and joined in the parlor games. The group proceeded to the City Jail where more problems of the prison were found out and some issues and concerns were aired by the inmates.

The Team Cotabato was accepted warmly by the community and the participants thanked the Chairman for her support.

The participants consider the Immersion Activity a success although they realized some of the setbacks or disadvantage of being assigned in your area of jurisdiction or responsibility just like in their case because of having a 'home-court advantage'.

Team Cotabato said that it would have posted more challenging and the inputs provided in the Immersion/reentry and community organizing if they were sent to other areas unfamiliar to them or other participants not living in Cotabato were assigned to Cotabato area.

The coordination with the Local Government and the residents however were pointed out as one of the advantages when conducting an immersion or community outreach.

Among the problems identified in the community are the over population in the Barangay resulting to over crowdedness and congestion in the place.

There were also problems identified in the City Jail like congestion and diseases. Sadness were also aired by the inmates because their families fail to visit them.



**JAIL VISIT.** Team Cotabato visits the City Jail in Rajah Tabunaway St. Cotabato City during the Immersion Phase of Community Relations and Gender Training held on March 17-26, 2014.

## THE TEAM UPI

Team Upi successfully implemented the planned activities like film showing, games and feeding for the kids, and dialogue with the community.



**MEET THE YOUTH.** Members of the Upi Team meet the Youth of Barangay Rempes, North Upi.

The team held a courtesy call to Upi Mayor Ramon Piang who expressed support and assistance to the group. Two members of the team Mr. Josefino Dabuco and Ms. Maria Nenita Janilla are residents of Upi and employees of the Municipality of Upi and served as guide and coordinator in conducting immersion activity at Bry. Rempes, Upi, Maguindanao.



**COURTESY CALL.** Team Upi pays courtesy call to Upi Mayor Ramon Piang in conducting CRT Immersion/Reentry Activity, March 24, 2014.

There were questions raised by the Indigenous Peoples, specifically the Teduray tribe on Ancestral Domains and their future on the Bangsamoro Government.



**DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMUNITY.** Team Upi holds dialogue with the residents of Brgy. Rempes, Upi, Maguindanao. The Indigenous People, specifically the Teduray tribe expressed concerns over the issues on Ancestral Domains and their future in the Bangsamoro Government.

The group was not prepared for the question, however, Josefino Dabuco - who is familiar with the subject and has attended many dialogues and forum tackling the issue and hearing the same questions addressed to authorities on the subject - was able to address the questions.

However on the more specific or sensitive issues, the group did not elaborate or said more as it would be pre-empting.

The group waited for the arrival of the Team from Datu Blah Sinsuat at 21<sup>st</sup> Company Detachment and again on convoy headed back to Cotabato City.



**PARLOR GAMES.** The kids of Brgy. Rempes, Upi participating in the parlor games facilitated by the Team Upi during Immersion activity.

On the way home though, the vehicle of Team Upi had a malfunctioned that the tires were wagging and smoke was oozing out of the front side of the military car.



**VEHICULAR MALFUNCTION.** The military vehicle carrying the members of the Team Upi undergoing repair from a vehicular malfunction. Members of Team Upi and Team Datu Blah Sinsuat did a stopover at Upi highway while waiting for the vehicle provided by the Local Government of Upi.

The groups did a stopover along the national highway of Upi, informed the MBLT-I headquarters and sought assistance of the Local Government of Upi through Ms. Nenita Janilla, one of the team members who is a resident of Upi. After about an hour, a Dump Truck vehicle arrived and the two teams were able to go back to the city.



**HIGHWAY STOPOVER.** The members of Team Upi and Team DBS did a stopover along Upi national highway after the military vehicle carrying the members of Team Upi suffered a malfunction. The student/trainees are waiting for the vehicle provided by the LGU of Upi, March 25, 2014, Upi, Maguindanao.

## B. AFTER ACTIVITY REVIEW (AAR)

In Cotabato City Headquarters of the MBLT-I, the 3 teams – Team Cotabato, Team Upi and Team DBS – met again for the After-Activity Review (AAR).



**AFTER-ACTIVITY REVIEW.** At the Conference Hall of Marine Battalion Landing Team I Headquarters, the three (3) teams – Team Cotabato, Team Upi and Team DBS report to Executive Officer Major Danilo Facundo for an After-Activity Review on the accomplishment of the recently done immersion/re-entry to respective areas and give impression and evaluation on the activity.

Facilitated by Executive Officer Major Danilo Facundo, the Teams were to report in brief the immersion/reentry activity, the insights obtained, peculiar observations, untoward incidence that the teams may have encountered.

The team members were also to report their accomplishments, the problems of the community identified, if the mission was done according to instruction, was there things done which should not have been done, and the community's response to the invitation and project and the residents reception of their 'visitors'.

The reporter of each group gave his group's account of the experience, the sequence of the activities done, the projects implemented, the key persons met and coordinated with, the problems of the community identified and the issues and concerns of the community as ventilated by the members.

Among the strong points observed in the Project was the good coordination between and among the Security Sectors and the Local government together with the key persons, agencies and support groups involved in the project. It made the ways smooth and the

arrangements easier as work was divided and activities proceeded according to plans and schedule.

Weak points or setbacks seen were the shortness of time allocated to the immersion/re-entry. The team members had to rush to activities and mission and had less time for dialogues and interaction with the community residents. Not much time was allocated for the residents to hear the many issues and concerns and how they can empower themselves to address their concerns and be the initiators or movers for change.

The teams had to rush back home and there was no time left to bid the residents goodbye or get the message of the residents or hear their final words.

The members of Team Upi were no longer able to help the residents in the restoration and have a formal dialogue as the team had to rush back home through a long trip via pump boats and military vehicle to traverse the newly-made road going to Datu Blah Sinsuat and vice-versa.

In general, organizers, facilitators, support partners, trainees/participants consider the whole project a success and bringing home with them the inputs and insights from the training to be applied, re-echoed and transmit to fellow Community Relations Operators and co-peace advocates during community relations opportunities.

### **TENTH DAY: MARCH 26, 2014**

#### **CLOSING PROGRAM STI College, Cotabato City**

The 10-day Community Relations and Gender Training – Cotabato Version culminated through a closing Ceremony held at STI College Cotabato City on March 26, 2014.

The ceremony started with an Invocation in Muslim and Christian Prayers followed by National Anthem.

A Welcome address was given by Marine Battalion Landing Team 1 Executive Officer Major Danilo Facundo, in behalf of MBLT-1 Commanding Officer LtCol Ronaldo V Juan. He acknowledged all the participants and the guests, most especially the key persons or co-partners in the recently-culminated project.

Major Facundo proceeded with the presentation of the participants and giving his summary report on the activity. He started by thanking the partners - The Asia Foundation (TAF); Australian Aid; Cotabato City Coalition for Change (4C's); Moro Women Development and Cultural Center (MWDECC); LGUs of Cotabato City, Upi and Datu Blah Sinsuat, and STI College in making the endeavor a success.

He cited the activities done by the participants, the organizers and the key persons or facilitators and the staff contributed services each day that made up the 10-day program; the insights gained by both the participants and the organizers; the topics discussed; feedbacks and the resolutions made out of the experience.

Guest of Honor was Cotabato City Secretary to the Mayor Aniceto 'Boy' Rasalan representing Mayor Japal Guiani, Jr. Sec. Rasalan commended the organizers for the endeavor, recalling his experiences himself in other Civil-Military Operations a long time ago, and the experiences of Cotabato City from the joint efforts and operations of the civilian and the military.

Messages of support from the project partner/NGOs – The Asia Foundation, the 4Cs, and the STI College. Project Officer Armiliza Magno, gave the message of support of The Asia Foundation; Co-Chairman Abdul Maguid Andong delivered the message of support from Cotabato City Coalition for Change and Mr. Jefferson Bacurnay gave the message of Support of STI College.

The Guest of Honor, organizers and support staff were awarded with Plaque or Certificates of Appreciation and token and the participants with the Certificate of Participation.

CDs containing the photos and the Powerpoint Presentations/Lectures were also given to the participants with T-shirts that they wore during the Tour and Photo Ops to the Old City Hall, The People's Palace and Grand Mosque last March 23, 2014 or Day 7 of the CRT.

A large printed copy of the group picture was included in the Certificate of Participation given to the Participants which was inserted in a large plastic frame.

The Commanding Officer LtCol Ronaldo Juan sent his congratulations to the participants and the organizers and giving thumbs up through the Executive Officer and the staff of Marine Battalion Landing Team I.

The program ended with announcements by the Master of Ceremony, 2Lt Korina Kirstine C Dela Costa followed by snacks and group pictorials.



**ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT.** MBLT-I Executive Officer Major Danilo M. Facundo delivers summary activity report of the recently-concluded Community Relations Training-Cotabato Version during its Closing Ceremony held at STI Main Building, Cotabato City, March 26, 2014.

## **V. METHODOLOGY/LESSONS LEARNED**

All the activities- lectures/video presentations, workshops, group reports, immersion/re-entry, community organizing were conducted with the end in mind of preparing one to become an effective Community Relations Operator.

The training aimed to equip the participants with tools that he can use in community relations activities.

The knowledge and wisdom imparted by the speakers aimed to make the participants knowledgeable in dealing and interacting with the people in the community as well as in coordinating with the key persons and lead agencies who would be part of his group's projects or endeavors.

The organizers were able to tap qualified resource persons and they were able to deliver the topics assigned to them.

There were other speakers who were not able to come but sent their representatives. The proxies however said that they were only informed of the task 'just today'.

The proxies did a good job, nevertheless as they seem to be 'always prepared' themselves and seem to be doing the job regularly with their powerpoint presentations and ready answers.

The facilitators were able to do the job of facilitating. However, most of the instructions came from the lecturers, themselves.

There were technical problems that arise from time to time and there were time constraints as topics turned out to be deep and long compared to the time allocated. The speakers managed it by skipping other sub-topics and went straight to the more important/relevant ones.

In the immersion/reentry, it was concluded that the time allocated for the interaction and bonding with the local residents was so short. And compared to many activities to be done, and the other problems in the area were overlooked before the activity began, time was really constrained.

## **VI. ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION ON RELEVANCE/IMPACT OF THE PROJECT**

The training enabled the students to know their ways in implementing the project. It made them knowledgeable on the steps to be done or followed in starting a project.

It made them confident in interacting and dealing with the community, coordinating with the key persons, lead agencies and the Local Government Units.

The topics on Cotabato history, culture, arts and values made the students aware of the do's and don'ts in entering Maguindanaon inhabited areas.

The inputs provided by the speakers on Effective Communication, Community Organizing, Stakeholders Analysis and Gender Analysis were applied during the immersion.

There were problems encountered which were not projected by the group but were overcome as participants are equipped and knowledgeable themselves, innovative and resourceful.

Owing to the resources of the project, and the support of the implementing partners, the activities were all successfully implemented and the objectives were met.

The purpose in coming to the communities – to bridge the gap among created by cultural diversity, religion and geographical distance was achieved. The positive response of the community was achieved, that is, if the reception would be the basis. In as much as good intention was the motive and the overall purpose was to establish friendly relations, build peace and inculcate good deeds among children, it can be inferred that the community was able to get the message that the group was at their area for the stated purpose.

Saved for the messages of thanks given by the local leaders and the inhabitants of the areas of immersion upon arrival, there was not much interactions as groups/teams had to go back to the City.

There was no untoward incident that took place and owing to the projected dangers, which might occur, by the Battalion Commander who instructed the groups/teams to come back to the City.

The objectives were met and missions were accomplished.

## **VII. VISIBILITY**

### **Invitations**

Invitations letters were sent to the head of the respective units where students/participants would come from. It contained the objectives of the Training and the ideal personnel to be sent to the Training.

### **Lectures**

Soft Copies of Lectures/Powerpoint Presentations and photos of the activities of the entire training were given to the students/participants in a DVD.

### **Notebooks, pens, folders and crayons**

Notebooks, pens, folders and crayons were provided the students/participants so they could take notes of the lectures and records and highlights of the training.

### **Schedule of Activities**

Schedule of activities with the topics and names of the speakers were also given to the students and programs of Opening and Closing Ceremony were also given.

### **Questionnaires and Evaluation Sheets**

Questionnaires and Evaluation Sheets were distributed to the students/participants after the Immersion and before the After-Activity Review.

### **Gender Analysis Sheet**

A Gender Analysis Sheet was distributed to each participant during the Lecture on Gender Analysis for the student/participant to fill-in the answers/analysis to the situation given.

### **T-shirts**

T-shirts were provided for the students/participants to be used during group tour and picture-taking at the Old City Hall, The Peoples' Palace or New City Hall and The Grand Mosque or Bolkia Mosque.

### **Project Progress Narrative Report**

A Project Progress Narrative Report is made and submitted to Implementing Partner containing the accounts of the project, the reports/details of the activities, the assessment and overall evaluation of the students/participants as well as the organizers and the facilitators/staff of the training.

### **News Article/Newsletter**

Accounts of the training was flash on T.V., news articles will be published in newspapers and social media and AFP Newsletters.

### **Book**

A book containing the stories/experiences of the students/participants of the training will be written and published.

It will serve as inspiration and guide to the Community Relations Officers and Operators and students in handling and teaching Community Relations Activities.

## **VIII. SUSTAINABILITY & ACCOUNTABILITY**

The implementing groups, agencies, proponents behind the project are so established and the activity itself is something which these groups have been doing in the past that will ensure its continuity and sustainability.

AFP's Internal Peace and Security Program – Bayanihan (IPSP) involves not only the Armed Forces of the Philippines but the various sectors and stakeholders of society like the academe, the business sector, the civil society organizations, the government institutions and the non-government organizations.

The Community Relations and Gender Training - Cotabato Version is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the CRT's conducted by the Marines with the support of the Asia Foundation.

The successes of the previous Trainings in other places gives indication that the activities will continue.

With the support of the Asia Foundation, The Australian Aid, the Cotabato City Coalition for Change, STI College of Cotabato, the Local Government Units, the different stakeholders, and the graduates themselves of the training will ensure the continuity of the project not only because of the proven necessity and relevance of the project, not to mention its timeliness because of the peace campaign and the peace agreement, but also because of the common and universal dream of everyone for peace.

The realization of order and development that comes with the existence of peace as a result of the efforts done by the government and the different stakeholders is more than enough to ensure that activities geared toward peace will be supported by responsible members of society.

The results of the peace talks, peace agreements, campaigns, efforts made in attaining and building peace are everywhere – on T.V, radio, the print media, by words of mouth and within the dream of every person who have experienced conflicts/war/violence versus peace and realized the difference.

With all the support of the different sectors and the concerned members of society and the new generations, it is not only possible but expected that peace is attainable if not total peace, but in small scales through little steps taken by those who want it and seek it and strive to sustain it.

There have been a lot of proofs and evidences that these little efforts generated results. Among those is the peace talks that has reach its final agreement and signed.

There are also a lot of civil society organizations that have been organized whose main objective is peace building and the promotion of peace and its continuity and sustainability. The big chance of attainment is very high with the realization that peace talks and peace negotiations are less expensive than war and the realization among people that no one really wins a war, that it is a self-destructing endeavor and struggle.

The exposure of the young generation to peace building activities and the over-all campaign of the government, the private sectors, the academe, the mass media and the various stakeholders have a great impact on their philosophies, principles and values.

The existence of extremists groups as well as spoilers to peace gives more reason for the peace advocates to strive more in campaigning and promoting peace and exposing the young generation and the community leaders and members to new ideologies that pursues peace for the purpose of living in a better world, harmoniously with others, respecting each other's diverse culture and beliefs, even agreeing to disagree.

## **IX. THE PARTNERS**

### **THE SUPPORT GROUPS**

The support given by the agencies and institutions to the Marines seen not only in its current activities but in many of its endeavors. The 4C's or Cotabato City Coalition for Change have always supported the Marines in many of its activities. Likewise the STI College, in its local initiatives and mission-vision has given its commitment of support to the programs of Marines and has been its partner in many of its program and activities.

### **THE AUSTRALIAN AID AND THE ASIA FOUNDATION**

The Australian Aid have supported the Marines in many of its programs and projects.

The Australian Aid-The Asia Foundation Partnership made the training realized. The initiatives and support provided by this partnership are overwhelming. The assistance and guidance provided moral and financial.

The relationship, coordination and partnership with this implementing partner and project co-sponsor is very good in that both parties are able to communicate well the needs of each party.

In most activities, a representative from the local office and main office are present to assist and facilitate the activities.

They also give additional inputs and to the trainees.

Outputs in terms of activities done, together with documents, photos and records as well as the financial support asked from the implementing agency are supplied.

The implementing agency is grateful for the support and providence of The Asia Foundation.

Coordination on the output of the project as well as the other obligations that come with the project implementation is good and utmost efforts are done to get the job done.