

Sultan Kudarat Liga ng mga Barangay learn Sanfran Community_based system

San Francisco, Cebu, Philippines-Eighty (80) Sultan Kudarat Barangay Captains headed by Hon. ELEUTERIO T. OTAYDE, Jr. - Liga President, Sultan Kudarat Chapter accompanied by Mr. ROBERTO PETINGCO - LGOV V - Chief, LGCDS, Mr. SAMUEL CAMAGANACAN - LGOV VI - District Officer and MR. AUGUSTUS T. TABAGO - LGOV V - Chief, LGMES visited San Francisco, Camotes last September 7, 2011 as part of their three days Cross Learning Visits in Cebu Province.

The Barangay Captains from Sultan Kudarat Province expressed their objectives of their study through writing Vice Mayor Al Arquillano, Jr that they were interested to learn the San Francisco Best & Replicable practices such as Disaster Risk Reduction & Management, Solid Waste Management and the famous Expanded Green Wholesome of Environment that Nurtures program which the town become the three time winner as the cleanest and greenest municipality of the entire province of Cebu and received a recognition from the “GARBO sa Sugbo 2011” as Local Community Development and Environmental Management last August 5, 2011 to be a major part of their cross learning study in Cebu province.

The municipality got two international recognitions as Winner 2011 SASAKAWA Award for Disaster Reduction on May 11, 2011 and become a Campaign Role Model for Making Cities Resilient last May 08, 2011 both received by Vice AL Arquillano at Geneva, Switzerland. These two international recognition made the town become the learning hub in making cities/municipality resilient. These international recognition caught worldwide attention and interest of other municipalities/cities interested to lean and visit Sanfran.

Sanfran Community_based System or popularly known as “*the purok system*” where the town is famous of, is the center of learning by the Lliga ng Mga Barangay. The Sanfran Community_based System was established by then Vice Municipal Mayor Alfredo A. Arquillano, Jr as a vehicle to promote the development projects embodied in his Vision for the municipality and carries out all the programs of local government in making the town ready to face the different hazards. This was originally started on June 8, 2004 when he envision that the Municipality of San Francisco shall be a place to live, a place to visit because people are healthy, cheerful, and hospitable due to the abundance of fresh foods, existing on a peaceful, orderly, clean and beautiful environment or aiming towards a resilient community.

Through this SFCB system originated by the United Nation International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Asia Regional Champion Vice Alfredo A. Arquillano, Jr caught the attention of some local leaders not only in province of Cebu and other provinces in Philippines but also to other countries when he presented it to the Global Platform in Geneva, Switzerland where infact mayors from Sri Lanka recently visited last month (August 26-27, 2011) did their

study tour focused in making town resilient by personally studied Sanfran community_based system in addressing disaster. The Sanfran Purok System is the main reason why the municipality reached to the one of the most prestigious recognition as the laureate in the SASAKAWA Award 2011 organized by United Nation defeated the Vancouver, Canada.

Sultan Kudarat Liga Ng Barangay also visited the Municipal Material Recovery Facility, interviewed with the Purok Bolis community officers and learned with the Barangay Officials of the Number One Barangay in the Province for two consecutive years the Barangay San Isidro for good governance.

The group are very much impressed of the town's cleanliness and are very much grateful for local government unit of San Francisco and ABC President Allan A. Arquillano for facilitating their cross learning visit. They are happy to actually see and learn the initiatives of the local town mayor, although they have a limited time in their field study but what they actually see in the place is a real manifestation of how the town deserved all the provincial and international recognition.

Sanfran now become the learning hub for disaster risk reduction initiatives and practices, the environmental protection, solid waste management and Sanfran community_based system expects more visitors coming for the next coming months wherein this month line up the Environmental Group of Lawyers and the ASEAN group. *(Monica P. Tan-Research and Planning Head-LDRRMO-Sanfran)*