



## **NEW SRA-GAD FOCAL POINT HOLDS PLANNING WORKSHOP**

The newly-reconstituted 2013 SRA-GAD Focal Point including its Technical Working Group (TWG) and Secretariat underwent an end review and planning and advance gender training at the Social Hall on February 25-26, 2013.

In attendance from the Quezon City side were Vice-Chair members Dr. Dina Padilla-Fernandez, Ms. Dolly dela Cruz, Ms. Priscilla Madrid and Ms. Cora Boyero plus TWG members and Secretariat namely, Ms. Evelyn Estanislao, Mr. Raffy Mundo, Ms. Maricar Dunton, Ms. Elsa Manangan, Mr. John Paul Antes, Ms. Mafi Ramos, Mr. Marco Soriano, Ms. Carol Pedalizo, Ms. Bles Gregorio, Ms. Emy Chu, Ms. Abby Flores, Ms. Hazel Mariano and Mr. Joseph Peter Gonzales. Meanwhile, the Bacolod contingent was composed of Atty. Johana Jadoc, Ms. Flor Logroño, Ms. Lucille Mae Sy and Ms. Mayline Uberas.

The invited over-all lecturer/facilitator was Dr. Caroline Sobritchea, present Dean of the GT Toyota Asian Center. Assisting her was Ms. Gina Rose Chan from the UP Center for Women's Studies Foundation where Dr. Sobritchea is also a strong moving force.

Before the seminar officially kicked off, Deputy Administrator and SRA-GAD Chairman Ms. Aida Ignacio rendered the opening remarks where she stressed on the importance of assessing the results of the GST's (gender sensitivity trainings) staged in the previous years. She emphasized that it's essential to go beyond the training and realize that the

conduct of GST's is primarily for the less privileged ones. At this point, she pointed out that the group should be concerned with impact assessment.

As Dr. Sobritchea was going through the overview of the two-day seminar, she reminded the group that one of the main goals of the activity is to be able to come up with an almost error-free GAD budget at the end of the session.

The renowned speaker started the seminar proper by explaining the situation of men and women in contemporary Philippine setting. She cited pertinent statistics like the latest human development report where the Philippines ranks number 112 out of 187 countries when it comes to health, education and income. But in the World Economic Forum's Global gender Gap Report, it's a joy to know that we are number 8 over-all.

Dr. Sobritchea also touched on productive resources, employment opportunities, indigenous people, women and politics, local and overseas employment and climate change and its adverse effects on people especially women.

Next to take the floor was Atty. Leo Battad, a veteran educator who has also held top positions in the UP College of Law. She zeroed in on VAWC (Violence against Women and Children) to the delight of the participants as they were able to gain legal insights. An open forum followed the discussion which capped the day's event.

The second day was devoted to the workshop on preparing the SRA-GAD Plan and Budget for 2014. Participants were grouped into four and they were made to identify particular gender issues and how the suggested activities to be undertaken to solve them can be accommodated in the official budget. Dr. Sobritchea critiqued each plenary presentation. All the reports were collected at the end of the session for consolidation. Certificates of Appreciation and Attendance were handed over to the resource person and participants as the culminating activity.