

SRA Attends GMEF Assessment Workshop in Iloilo

The SRA-GAD, as represented by Mr. Joseph Peter R. Gonzales recently participated in the Gender and Development Focal Point System Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework Assessment Workshop on May 26-27, 2016 held at the West Town Hotel in Mandurriao, Iloilo City.

The event's key speakers were Dir. Jocelyn Alma Badiola (Vice-Chair, DA-GAD FS), Ms. Lorna Villegas (Head Secretariat, DA-GAD FS) and Mr. Macario Jusayan (Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Philippine Commission on Women). Mr. Jusayan pointed out that while it's true many agencies find it difficult to adjust to the Gender Mainstreaming Monitoring System (GMMS) since it was only introduced officially last year, in time, users will appreciate its value and beauty, especially with the influx of the paperless era. All records are intact in the system from the very beginning.



Topics discussed are as follows: a) the rationale of the workshop; b) presentation of the DA-GAD Framework; c) overview of the GMEF or the Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework; d) baseline DA GMEF results; e) application of GMEF tool; f) guide in formulating GPB and GAD AR; and g) a quick review of the Gender Mainstreaming Monitoring System.

Among the important points highlighted during the discussions were: a) When a central office creates a module, other agencies are not mandated to follow it, but if it's a good one, they can adopt it; b) When an agency copies a model module from another agency, it's imperative to let the latter know to avoid allegations of copying; c) It's better to orient management about GAD through the agency's exe com meetings with an invited PCW representative to explain things better; d) In the conduct of GST's, it was suggested that the Budget Officer or a COA representative be involved so they'll know the importance of releasing the funds on time to address the needs of rural women; e) The GMEF is actually an assessment of where every agency is right now in Gender Mainstreaming; f) Submission of GMEF Assessment Results with MOV's to PCW will be on September 30, 2016; and g) GAD Focal Persons should be active in attending meetings--he/she ought to maintain the agency profile and can also be the encoder to control the flow of the GMMS.



On the last day of the workshop, a brief review and one-on-one coaching for the GMMS (as requested by any participant) was staged. Everyone agreed that the submission of the GMEF will be on September 30, 2016. And in consideration to those agencies in attendance whose 2016 GPB's and 2015 AR's are not yet officially endorsed by the PCW, the latter gave them one final chance to enhance theirs.

By: Joseph Peter R. Gonzales