

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE
GOVERNANCE FOR HOLISTIC UNDERTAKING BRIDGING
SOLUTIONS HUBS(G-HUBS) IN EASTERN VISAYAS**

KNOW ALL PEOPLE BY THIS PRESENTS:

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered hereto by and between the following higher education institutions, civil society organizations and People's Organization namely,

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, VISAYAS TACLOBAN COLLEGE (UPVTC), with office address at Magsaysay Boulevard, Tacloban City;
EASTERN VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY (EVSU), with office address at Salazar St., Tacloban City;
CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS INC. (CDSCP Inc.), with office address at 2nd Floor, People's Center & Library, Tacloban City;
WOMEN ENABLERS, ADVOCATES AND VOLUNTEERS FOR EMPOWERING AND RESPONSIVE SOLUTIONS, INC. (WEAVERS, Inc.), with office address at Room 19 Ground Floor, Leyte Academic Center Building, Leyte Information, Communication and Technology Park, National Highway, Barangay Pawing, Palo, Leyte; and
CENTER FOR EMPOWERMENT AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (CERD) with office address at 113 Magsaysay St., Barangay Talisay, Catarman, Northern Samar.

WITNESSETH

- Paulino*
- WHEREAS,** the Philippines has a growing economy but poverty, inequality, and weak citizen engagement in local governance persist;
- WHEREAS,** the Philippines is a signatory to global instruments that promote inclusive growth such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- WHEREAS,** local governments are encouraged to localize the SDGs through the implementation of the 2017-2022 Philippine Development Plan;
- WHEREAS,** government establishes enabling policies and mechanisms at the national and local levels that promote people-centered development;
- WHEREAS,** citizen engagement in governance processes contributes to inclusive and sustainable development;
- WHEREAS,** local government units face challenges in enhancing their capacities to promote, protect and fulfill the human rights of their constituencies;
- M*
WHEREAS, people suffer from poor political participation and limited access to socio-economic services because of weak implementation of mechanisms for citizens' engagement in local development processes;
- WHEREAS,** higher education institutions (HEI) are well-positioned to advance development advocacies and take part in accelerating delivery of public services;
- John*
WHEREAS, HEIs are present nationwide, have available capacities, and contribute to human capital development through their pillars of training, research, extension, and production;
- LE Ct c/c*

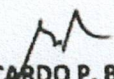
- WHEREAS, civil society organizations (CSO) are key stakeholders in promoting community development through policy advocacy, community mobilization, socio-economic activities, disaster response, capacity building, service delivery, among others;
- WHEREAS, CSOs engage in community development work nationwide;
- WHEREAS, HEIs, and CSOs have crucial roles in advancing various development advocacies, accelerating delivery of specific services, initiating reforms, and promoting democratic principles and practices at the local level;
- WHEREAS, UNDP established the Governance Hubs or G-HUBS as platforms for advancing democratic governance with capacity to harness knowledge and expertise of members, upscale local initiatives and best practices, build capacities of local governments and communities, and strengthen local governance towards improved local service delivery and sustainable local development;
- WHEREAS, HEIs, and CSOs have agreed to be strategic partners in providing capacity building services to LGUs, initiating knowledge transfer, and advocating for policy reform that uphold principles of democratic governance;
- WHEREAS, this partnership among HEIs, and CSOs is collectively called Governance Hubs or G-HUBS that are present in every region in the country;
- WHEREAS, the partnership envisions to contribute to creating a democratic environment that facilitates the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals by mobilizing and assisting local governments and other local stakeholders along the areas of expertise of the G-HUBS;
- WHEREAS, G-HUBS agree to channel collective resources and expertise to help provide solutions to development challenges faced by local governments and communities;
- WHEREFORE, Based on the above given premise, the herein G-HUBS members agree on the following institutional arrangements to wit:
1. Advocate for reforms to improve the delivery of basic services at the local government level to serve the poor and marginalized communities in the areas of health, water, sanitation and hygiene, agricultural development, and social protection, among others;
 2. Contribute to policy and public discourse about local development with the aim of empowering local governance actors;
 3. Actively engage in consultative and policy forums that tackle national and local development issues that impact on communities' access to public services;
 4. Enter into partnerships with national agencies, development organizations, and other groups and institutions (e.g., professional associations, United Nations Civil Society Assembly) to implement projects and activities that promote local development and enhance the capacity of local governments and communities;
 5. Develop a business model to sustain and scale-up the partnership and its engagements with other local stakeholders;
 6. Develop a capacity building plan and organize capacity building activities for LGU partners, community partners, and G-HUBS members;
 7. Assign Center for the Development of Sustainable Communities for social Progress Inc. (CDSCP Inc.) as the FUND MANAGER of the GHUBS and shall take charge in the

financial management of the funds intended for projects which will be implemented by the GHUBS.

8. Observe collegial and collective decision-making processes pertaining to project coordination and management and based on the specific context and needs of each project or initiative;
9. Share the activity reports, knowledge products, and other project outputs to the GHUBS network and to the public.
10. Settle amicably through direct negotiation with the concerned GHUBS Members any dispute, controversy, or claim arising out of or relating to the MOU. In case negotiations are unsuccessful, the matter shall be referred to arbitration in accordance with Philippine laws.
11. Provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) may be modified or amended only by written agreement among the partners identified in this MOU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, hereby set their hands this 11th day of February 2019 at Tacloban City, Philippines.

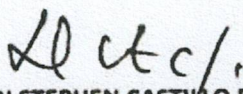
For UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES VISAYAS TACLOBAN COLLEGE:


RICARDO P. BABARAN, PhD
Chancellor

For EASTERN VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY:


DOMINADOR O. AGUIRRE, JR., DM
University President

For CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS INC.
(CDSCP Inc.):


DAN STEPHEN CASTILLO PALAMI
Board Chair

Pauline L. Nayra
PAULINE L. NAYRA
President

Julio Galvez Tan
JULIO GALVEZ-TAN
 Managing Trustee

WITNESSED BY:

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The herein persons expressed that the herein document a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) consisting of three (3) pages including this acknowledgement page are their voluntary acts and deeds.

Doc. # 411
Page # 91
Book # 787
Series of 2019

Notary Public

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FBI - NEW YORK
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