Sasakawa Award
for Disaster Reduction

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Creating Local Solutions in Building Resilient Communities: The Experience of the Municipality of San Francisco, Camotes Island, Cebu, Philippines

Documentation entry
PART II: For institutions
Municipality of San Francisco, Cebu, Philippines

Date of creation: 1928
Field of activity: Local Governance
Size and structure: 10,597 hectares,
12 coastal barangays,
3 upland barangays,
129 puroks (sub-villages),
Population: 44,588 as of 2007 National Census
45,658 as of 2009 Local Census
Funding: 59,436,223 pesos
Annual Budget (Internal Revenue Allotment)

Name of Head of Institution: Mayor Aly Aranas. Arquillano
III. San Francisco Special achievements

The Municipality of San Francisco, like many islands in the Philippines, is naturally gifted with very rich coastal resources. It is a third class municipality forming part of the Camotes Group of Islands off the coast of Cebu Province in Central Philippines. Despite being a small island municipality, it has been acknowledged as a champion in terms of advocating for the global campaign on disaster risk reduction through building resilient communities, especially in the Central Visayas region. In fact, it has garnered several awards and recognition for its contribution to this endeavor being a model municipality for DRR.

Starting 2008, a year after the Hyogo Framework of Action was signed and approved, the municipality started to initiate inventories of practices, projects, programs and initiatives related to risk reduction and climate change adaptation. From then on, San Francisco became the leading municipality in the region in terms of building community resilience.

Its most remarkable initiative is the establishment of the Purok System, a micro structure of municipal governance at the sub-village level, a one-of-a kind innovation seen only in San Francisco. The Purok System showcases its Capital Build Up (CBU) program that empowers communities by allowing them to actively participate in developing local solutions for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The Bayanihan (community cooperation) is the backbone of the purok system. (Attachment 1: Purok System documentation)

The Municipality of San Francisco not only propagates its experiences to its own locality and neighboring provinces but also endeavors to share this with the rest of the world, as well as learn from the experiences of other areas. These efforts include a series of learning visits to other municipalities and provinces in the Philippines, and to other countries, like the United Kingdom,
USA, Japan, Bangladesh. San Francisco has also conducted exchanges with civil society organization representatives from Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands and many others. Lastly, the Municipal government highly values the benefits that research brings in strengthening its DRRM programs and is active in sharing these with other municipalities so that they can learn from each other.

In particular, the following have been the milestones achieved by San Francisco in accordance with the Hyogo Framework of Action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals:

(Documentation A : A Documentation of the 10 Point Checklist for Making San Francisco, Camotes Resilient to Disaster “The updated Ten –Point Checklist that was submitted last year to ISDR for World Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign)

a. Building resilience through the *Purok* System Approach

*Health Program in partnership with Plan International*

- 2007 and 2008 “Pabasa sa Nutrisyon- National Outstanding Award” an honor granted to municipalities recognizing the implementation of local projects and programs towards the nutritional improvement of children, families and communities. San Francisco has successfully achieved this through the Local Health Ambassadors program which makes primary health care accessible to the communities at the *purok* (sub-village) level. Local Health Ambassadors are local legislators at the *barangay* (village) level who have instituted creative mechanisms to support the *barangay* health workers in their sanitation campaign such as the zero open defecation campaign, *purok*-based gardening and nutrition initiatives with direct participation of school
teachers and children. The award was given during the Philippine Association of Nutrition, (PAN) Inc. 62nd Annual convention held last July 16-17, 2009.

b. Environmental Management and Protection

*Environmental Protection for Fishery Resources in partnership with the Marine Aquarium Council, PLAN International and ECOGOV*

- **Recognized as the “Third World Certified Collection Area”** granted after passing the IMS Standard for Environmental Fishery Management Standard of the Marine Aquarium Council in 2005 after they comply and formulated the Collection Area Management Plan to have a sustainable fishing grounds in the collection of ornamental fish. The award was given by Laurie de Freese of USAID on August 27, 2005 at Alfredo A. Arquillano, Sr Memorial Gymnasium.

National and Provincial Awards on the Environment:

- **Cleanest & Greenest Municipality of Region 7-1997 Presidential Awards for the Cleanest & Greenest LGU of the Philippines.**
- **Gawad Pangulo Award sa Kapaligiran** 2000-Inland Bodies of Water Category
- **Gawad Pangulo Award sa Kapaligiran** 2004-Inland Bodies Category (Lake Category)
- **Gawad Pangulo Award sa Kapaligiran** 2001 Winner, Island Bodies of Water Category
- **Most Outstanding Performance in Heritage Work (municipal category) 2009**
• Outstanding Achievement in Heritage Place Management 2009
• Best Implementer of Solid Waste Management

(Attachment 4 : San Francisco Awards and certificates)

Other achievements in environmental management and protection:

• Establishment of the biggest indigenous tree nursery in the Islands of Camotes
• Bicycle use Campaign all through out the municipality in support of the Clean Air Act of the Philippines

C. Model Municipality in the Global Campaign of UNISDR “Making cities/Municipalities Resilient” to Disaster

• Organized a Camotes Island-wide campaign for the Mayors of the three other Municipalities that constitute the group of islands to sign the Certificate of Commitment for the Global Campaign to make municipalities/communities resilient.
• Mobilized 22 mayors and 29 Vice Mayors in Central Visayas to participate in the Regional Launching of the UNISDR Global Campaign for Disaster Risk Reduction.
• Continues to lead municipalities in the province of Cebu, and all throughout Visayas Islands in Central Philippines, in coming up with a Five-Year Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan in accordance with the newly enacted Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Law (RA10121)

(Attachment 2 : San Francisco Municipal DRRM Plan as an outcome of a continuing consultation with local community representatives including the children and local officials. The DRRM Plan is based on the Barangay Contingency plans, including community- based risk assessment results)
d. Building Resilient Through Good Governance

Two Times Grand Champion for Best Implementer of Solid Waste Management

- Two-time Grand Champion for Best Implementer of Solid Waste Management under the *Expanded Green and Wholesome Environment that Nurtures Program* (EGWEN) 2009-2010, an environmental protection program of Cebu Province. This award is given by Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia in partnership with the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc.

e. Champion for the Asia Pacific Region in the Campaign, “Making Cities/Municipalities Resilient”

- The Vice mayor is Recognized by the UNISDR as Champion for Asia Pacific in the campaign for Making Cities/Municipalities Resilient to Disasters

- San Francisco with the vice mayor continue to lead and provide creative suggestions to the local chief executives of the country especially in Cebu and Region 7 of the Visayas.

See link: www.preventionweb.net

f. Establishment of Functional Women and Children Protection Unit (WCPU)
During and after disasters women and children are the most vulnerable sectors after affected. Known disasters in the global scenario described psycho social impacts are the least prioritized interventions especially to the women, children and the persons with disabilities.

Recognizing such effects of disasters, San Francisco WCPU serves the same purpose. Equipped with trained staffs like the medical practitioners, registered social workers, volunteer health workers this protection unit is expected to reduce the psycho social impacts of disasters.

Translations:
Sanguniang bayan – Municipal council
Purok – sub-village
Barangay – village, also the smallest governing unit in the Philippine political system
Gawad Pangulo Award sa Kapaligiran – Presidential award for the Environment

PART IV: Proposal for the use of the award money

The award money is used to support the Two Million Trees Project of the Local Government of San Francisco (see attached separate document project proposal for Food for Work for Green San Francisco).

The Municipality of San Francisco had already launched the “Two Million Trees Project” in order to rehabilitate its watershed areas and consequently strengthen efforts for disasters reduction. The USD 50,000 (or Php 2.2 Million) will contribute much to this
worthy endeavor. Moreover, this project does not only address watershed rehabilitation but also falls under the Municipality’s “Food for Work” program in the greening of San Francisco. The concept of the Food for Work is simple: through the **purok system**, community residents collect wild type (native trees seedlings) and participate in planting the trees, and in so doing, they generate income for themselves.

This program prioritizes those in the **purok** who have lower incomes, including out-of-school youth and other vulnerable groups. So while the Two Million Trees Project addresses environmental concerns, it also provides an opportunity for the communities to take part in this effort as well as promote communal participation and social welfare. Specifically, the income that the communities generate through this activity will be used to support education needs of deprived children and Plan scholars to continue their schooling in the preparation of Plan phasing out in the area.

This project is headed by the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office of San Francisco, as part of the mitigation activities to address global warming, climate change, and other natural and human induced related risks.

*(Attachment 6: Food for Work for Green of San Francisco)*

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**PART V: Documentation**

*Major Documentation Entry*

*Documentation Entry A - Documentation of the 10 Point Checklist for*
Making San Francisco Resilient to Disasters -
*documentation and a 10 minutes video presentation*

**Documentation Entry B.**- Creating Local Solutions in Building Resilient Communities: The Experience of Municipality of San Francisco, Camotes Islands, Cebu Philippine (*power point file*)

**Documentation Entry C.**- An Island of Solutions: Building Resilient Communities in San Francisco, Camotes-Video Presentation *(5 minutes & 10 Minutes Video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtfLHZiqno](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtfLHZiqno)*

**Documentation Entry D.**- Child -centered Risk Reduction in the Central Philippines (*brochure*)

**References:**

1. Purok System Documentation-pdf (*attachment 1*)
2. San Francisco Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Plan-pdf (*attachment 2*)
3. San Francisco Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Budgetary Plan-excel (*attachment 3*)
4. San Francisco Awards & Certificate.pdf (*attachment 4*)
5. Santiago Contingency Plan.pdf (*attachment 5*)
6. Food For Work for Green San Francisco.pdf (attachment 6)
7. Signed Certificate of Commitment by the Mayor and Vice-Mayor to building Disaster Risk-Resilient Communities as stated in the Ten-Point Checklist in Bangkok and Camotes Islands, Cebu-pdf (*attachment 7*)
8. Solid waste management documentation (.pdf) (*attachment 8*)
9. Links on accomplishments of San Francisco:

[http://www.preventionweb.net/](http://www.preventionweb.net/)
Link: San Francisco Documents for Nomination for SASAKAWA Entry 2011

Major Documentation entry

http://www.4shared.com/document/0hmDonZl/Documentation_of_the_10_Point.html

http://www.4shared.com/file/xjbtwUWD/Creating_Local_Solutions_in_Bu.html

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtfLHZiqnol

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeGu7SHPVqY

http://www.4shared.com/document/blDembDl/Child_Center_Risk_REduction_in.html

References:

http://www.4shared.com/document/blDembDl/Child_Center_Risk_REduction_in.html

http://www.4shared.com/document/Lyrx3Xbw/San_Francisco_MDRRM_Plan_Packa.html

http://www.4shared.com/document/K_I_g27z/Attachment_3_DRRMP_over_all_bu.html

http://www.4shared.com/document/rUnQ9CMh/San_Francisco_Award__Recogniti.html

http://www.4shared.com/document/S7TT7uhh/Santiago_Contingency_Plan_1_.html

http://www.4shared.com/document/S7TT7uhh/Santiago_Contingency_Plan_1_.html


http://www.4shared.com/document/lmVKkf1k/SOLID_WASTE_MANAGEMENT_PROGRAM.html

Link for the Supporters Letters
http://www.4shared.com/document/rEjljVeS/Plan_endorsement_from_the_PU_f.html
http://www.4shared.com/document/3wTLFufa/LETTER_OF_SUPPORT_FROM_ECOGOV.html
PART VI: Supporters

1. Letter of Support from Regional Manager for Central Visayas May Elizabeth Segura Ybanez of ECOGOV2-(see attached letter)
2. Letter of Support from Executive Director KAIRA Zoe K. Alburo of A2D Project—Research Group for Alternatives to Development Inc.-(see attached letter)
3. Letter of Support from District Supervisor of DepED-(see attached letter)
4. Letter of Support from Program Unit Manager Roy Soledad -Plan International - (see attached letter)

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Date of submission: 25 FEBRUARY 2011