



# BUKLOD TAO, Inc.

7 Dama De Noche Street, Dona Pepeng Subdivision, Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal

## LETTER OF SUPPORT

Buklod Tao is among the organizations that expressed interest to carry out the Views from the Frontline 2011 project managed by the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction at the international level. This is not the first time for Buklod Tao to join such event. In fact, during the Views from the Frontline 2009, the organization has actively participated as one of the respondents and participating organizations. They were grateful of how the said action-research turned out since their own voice as front liners was brought up in the advocacy work at the global level. Such opportunity encouraged various international stakeholders to think and implement mechanisms that will address their issues pertinent in achieving disaster risk reduction at the local level and beyond.

The VFL 2011 project enabled Buklod Tao members to understand their significant role as part of the civil society to assess the implementation of the priorities stipulated in the Hyogo Framework for Action with special attention on local governance. Through this endeavour, the voice of the local people surfaced who commonly suffer the greatest brunt when disasters strike. The said undertaking served as another major challenge for us, Buklod Tao members. But knowing that this will benefit the greater populace, we bravely responded to the call. The series of interviews that we have undertaken to realize the aim of the endeavour allowed us to generate the perspectives of different people on how the local government implements the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (*Republic Act 10121*), the new law on disaster risk reduction in the Philippines that puts forward greater participation from civil society and local communities. Hearing the opinions directly from the local people gave us an apt awareness on the strengths of the law as well as the issues that need to be addressed in order to reduce the risks in the communities and promote proactive approach in dealing with disasters. This is very relevant to us since we are a part of the Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines which led the advocacy of the passage of the new law RA 10121.

It was indeed a wonderful experience to be given a chance to know and personally talk to some local government officials. The said interviews also opened a window of opportunity for Buklod Tao to share what the organization has done in the past as well as its current activities to continuously pursue safety and preparedness from disasters. Furthermore, the conduct of interviews became favourable for the organization to introduce their existing project named "BANABA DISASTER RISK REDUCTION" in partnership with the Center for Disaster Preparedness(CDP).

Apart from the authorities at the local level, the project also enabled us to get the perspective of the Village Captain. Based from his response, he mentioned that the Barangay Council is doing its duty to implement the DRR law but in a very limited extent. This being the case, he wholeheartedly expressed his gratitude to Buklod Tao since its DRR activities have provided great help to the community especially for the community leaders, teachers, women, children and youth, elderly, and people with disabilities. In addition, the conduct of the interview paved the way for Buklod Tao to bring to the awareness of the community people the salient provisions of the new DRR law. Furthermore, they were also encouraged to foster coordination with the local government to learn about their initiatives towards the safety of the at-risk and vulnerable populace. Moreover, the communities were also made to realize that they can take part in decision making together with the local authorities in concerns that relate to DRR.

*RAMON J.*