

Exposure Visit to the Philippines

On 9th to 12th Dec 2019, 23 delegates from Cambodia conducted exposure visit to Nueva Vizcaya, Pampanga, the Philippines in order to learn the experiences on Land and Forest Governance, Customary Tenure Rights of IC. Those 23 delegates are from NGOs and Government sides which included Ministry of Land, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Women Affairs, Land Department from Kratie, Preah Vihear, Officials from provincial office of Ratnanakiri Mundul Kiri, and Stung Treng provinces. NGOs side were CLEC, MVI, NTFP, HA, ICSSO, NGOForum, Mlup Baitong, Rachana Strey, Star Campuchea, NTFP-EP and Journo from Thmey Thmey.



On the first day, 10th Dec 2019, all participants visited to the Ikalahan communities at Santa Fe Municipality. On the way back, the delegates met with Mayor and Councilors of Santa Fe Municipality of Imugan, Nueva Vizcaya.



11th Dec 2019, the delegates honorably allowed to meet with Department of Environment Natural Resources of the Philippines (DENR), Regional III, in San Fernando, Pampanga.

12th Dec 2019, held meeting in the morning to reflect what we had learned from the two days visit. The session was facilitated by Ms Femmy Pinto, the NTFP_EP of the Philippines. In afternoon, dialogue and exchange with ICCA Consortium/Philippines

about ICCA Project (Indigenous Community Conservation Areas).

What I have learned?

Ikalahan communities: There, we met the IP communities called Ifugao, which the Philippines government granted their ancestral domain of land/forest around 55,994.87 hectares for them to govern and manage traditionally after long struggle since 1974. This is sort of vast of land to be granted for the communities for self-management. There are more than 30 villages use and manage the areas. The communities of each village have own development program ranking from NRM, Livelihood and Education programs, which supported by district, and DENR and NGOs like NTFP-EP. As result of NGOs capacity development since long long time, those community's representatives are capable like NGOs. In terms of social and economic, the Ikalahan communities are producing organic rice, ntfps, and vegetable to supply people at down town. They are preparing to sell mountainous water for the people at down areas for consumption. The Ikalahan communities are fully recognized to manage their ancestral domain which include forest, land and mineral resources underground.

Major of Imugan Municipality: The local authorities have its own fund to develop and support the Ikalahan Ancestral Domain. All staff of Municipality including Councilors are all IPs persons.

DENR, Regional Three: The DENR allocated fund to support communities like Ikalahan in the form of Ancestral domain and ICCA. Fund support from DENR is for eco-tourism, materials and equipment etc.

Reflection:

- In the Philippines, the gov't has commitment to create the ICCAs .
- Learned the definition of ICCAs, which has numbers of characteristics, 1) Indigenous community with strong spirit bound, 2) De facto capacity and power to lead and make decision 3) Promoting conservation on biodiversity, ecological functions and cultural values. 4) ICCA builds a strong network for the indigenous communities. 5) ICCA is a conservation mechanism. Cambodia is one of the signatories of CBD and ICCA is a commitment toward CBD. In Asia, Philippines and Indonesia are the advance countries on ICCA

