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**Gender Sensitive Emergency Response and Disaster Management Seminar/Drill
August 26-27 and September 4-5, 2014**

Climate change is taking a toll in the lives of so many people not only in our country but the world over. The Philippines is the most disaster prone country in the world and ranked 3. It made headlines during the Mount Pinatubo eruption, disastrous typhoons like Yolanda, Glenda and Ondoy, floods, enormous garbage and landslides in Metro Manila and in the provinces. The conflicts and wars in Mindanao and devastation caused by fire and earthquakes.

Policymakers agree that people must learn to mitigate the devastation caused by these calamities and learn to adapt to the changes. Everyone was a living witness to the catastrophe wrought by the lack of disaster preparedness. Ample preparation could have prevented the loss of lives and properties.

Emergency disaster preparedness management should also be gender sensitive in order to achieve a more responsive action plan to address the impending catastrophe thereby saving lives, being the ultimate goal of this seminar.



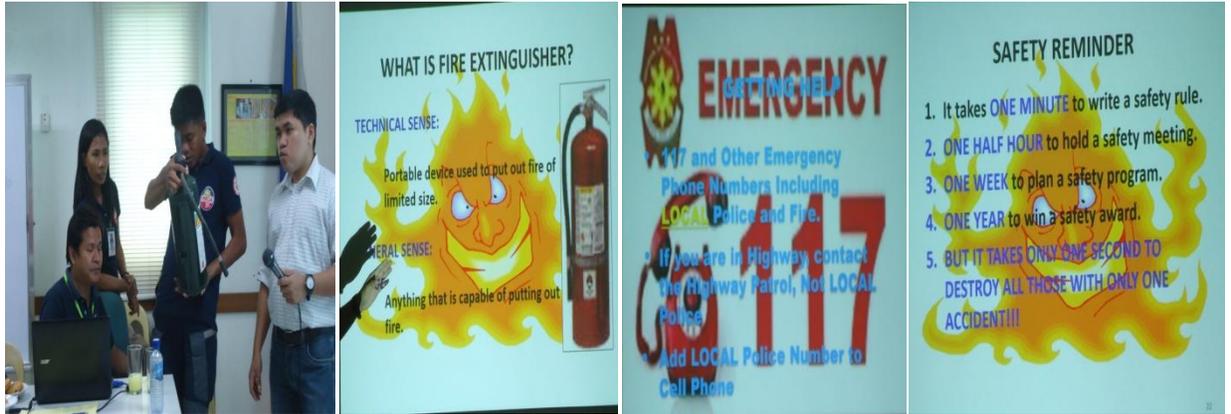
NDA conducted two batches of 2-days gender sensitive emergency response and emergency disaster management seminar /drill for NDA personnel as a pro-active activity to better equip its employees in facing disaster and how to handle the situation in case of an emergency situation. This is also aimed to equip all personnel, especially in the field to know what to do and to develop the basis for making immediate and sound decisions, to prevent loss of lives both human and livestock and property.



The general objectives is: 1) to create awareness on the probabilities of the occurrence of natural disasters such as typhoon, low pressure areas (habagat), flooding, landslides, earthquakes and fires.2) To be able to gain knowledge on the safety measures to be done in the workplace in cases of fire, earthquake, flooding, LPA's and typhoons.3) To create on the sources of fire and the basic safety precautions to avoid fire and what to do during and after a fire 4) To be able to understand common terms used in weather forecasting so as to be able to accurately give information to farmers and other stakeholders 5) To be able to learn practical ways in pro-actively preparing, before the disaster happens- pre disaster operations during the event and after the event- post disaster operations 6) To be able to know the value of having an emergency kit at home and in the workplace 7) To be able to know QRT (Quick Response Team) in the community and valuable contact numbers in case of emergency.



Resource persons from the Citizen Disaster Response Center (CDRC) an NGO based in Metro Manila and from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority were tapped to give first hand information to the attendees.



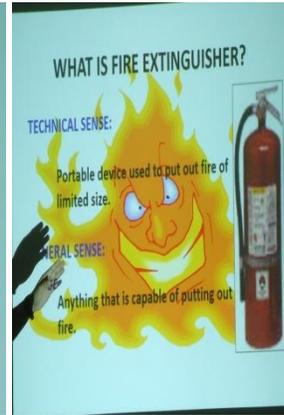
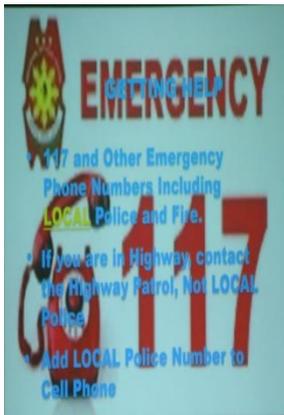
85 personnel comprising of office based and field personnel attended the local partnership development and training member aid seminar. Actual drill was done on the use of fire extinguisher to ensure that the personnel will know how to properly operate the said gadget





At the end of the seminar, each participant received an emergency kit comprising of a flashlight with batteries, can opener, pliers, first aid kit and OTC medicines , whistle and a portable radio.

This is in keeping with the seminars' aim of keeping the personnel ready in case of an emergency.



Mr. Aldo R. Mayor, Chief of the Public Safety Division of MMDA gave an overview of the Metro Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study (MMEIRS) and Earthquake Reduction, Mr. Antonio C. Evasco, Special Operation Officer together with Ms. Riza Miñoza, Mr. Roque Biong, Mr. Mark Lucas and Joel Reyes and Ms. Leonora B. Hamyang and Ms. Ma. Elna Corazon J. Jazmines, both local Development and Training members of CDRC talked on Disasters and the Root Causes and actions on how to mitigate the situation.

Ching M. Lumanta/Information Officer for Luzon/August 27, 2014