

**DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT and PLEDGE  
Regional Forum on Local Water Governance  
January 2011  
Ateneo de Naga University**

We the participants gathered for the "Regional Forum on Local Water Governance Forum" held in Ateneo de Naga University, Naga City on January 6-7, 2011, representing the Bicol Region Local Government Units (LGUs), National Government Agencies, Water Service Providers (WSPs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Academe, Private Sector, Civil Society and concerned individuals, issue the following statements and call for action:

**We the Water Service Providers (WSPs), commit to:**

- Efficiently Manage water supply facilities and system and ensure access to safe and potable water. We will strengthen and involve the stakeholders in our advocacy on water resource conservation and its sustainable management;

**We the Local Government Units, commit to:**

- Exercise political will on the enactment and enforcement of local laws/ordinances and orders that promote access to safe and clean drinking water, and the efficient and sustainable operation and management of its system and resources;
- Prioritize and provide or seek to provide the needed budget for water supply and sanitation programs and ensure inclusion of water and sanitation programs in the formulation of our Executive and Legislative Agenda (ELA);
- Strengthen inter LGU and Agency cooperation to maximize the technical, operational and financial requirement towards the optimum exploitation of the water resource opportunities in the area.

**We the National Government Agencies, NGOs, Academe, Private Sector, Civil Society and concerned individuals commit to:**

- Take part and be actively involved in the local development and implementation of water supply and sanitation projects;
- Strongly and actively advocate on efficient operation, sustainable use of water resources and its conservation and protection.

**We all commit to:**

Formulate and implement comprehensive development plans at the region down to the local level and align activities that will support better access to water and its sanitary use.

**In support, WE CALL:**

**On the National Leadership**

to elevate to a commission level the regulatory agency for water and sanitation to strengthen the national policy on water and sanitation and the formulation and enforcement of its regulations;

**On the DILG**

to continuously monitor the performance of LGUs on water and sanitation programs development, operations, conservation and protection and incorporate in its best practice replication program;

**On the NGOs, Academe, Private Sector, Civil Society and concerned individuals**

to intensify research and IEC advocacy on water supply and sanitation concerns at the LGU level and to take steps in integrating "water values" subjects/courses in school and university curriculum.

**On the DOH and the NEDA regional offices**

to establish "water database" in the Bicol Region and act as information repository on the implementation and monitoring of projects on water and sanitation and the evaluation of water potability in the region.

**On the NEDA**

to lead the conduct of activities such as "donors forum" that create more investment opportunities on water supply and sanitation for LGUs in the Bicol Region;

**On the DENR**

to harmonize plans in the delineation of watershed areas; and  
to step up its campaign to improve protection and conservation of watersheds in the Bicol Region.

**ON the GFIs, the DOF and other line agencies**

to simplify requirements for LGUs wishing to access funds/grants for water and sanitation programs, the District Representatives, Senators and the President to allot more funds from their CDF specifically for water and sanitation programs.

Furthermore, the participants in this forum undertake to continue and support future water governance fora, conduct of regular monitoring and evaluation on all water and water-related programs and projects as well as of the provisions of this declaration, to regularly report on its progress; and, to continuously share good practices and learnings to other water stakeholders in the region.

**These we DECLARE, and shall hold true.**

(Signatures follow)

