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BSMED, GIZ hold green workshop for the regions



DTI Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (DTI-BSMED) Director-in-Charge Jerry T. Clavesillas (5th from left, third row), with the GIZ ProGED Team led by Project Manager Dr. Volker Steigerwald (6th from left, third row) and participating GED focal persons from the regions take a break for a photo op during the workshop.

To further promote green practices among the country's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the DTI Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (BSMED) and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH* (GIZ), held a workshop for regional and provincial Green Economic Development (GED) focal persons on 16 September 2016 at the Berjaya Hotel, Makati City.

ProGED (Promotion of GED) is a project funded by GIZ, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and implemented in the Philippines by DTI-BSMED and the Regional and Provincial Offices. It aims to encourage MSMEs to implement environment-friendly, climate-sensitive, and inclusive strategies and measures for their business. This is to ensure that the country's economic development will not compromise the environment.

The workshop aimed to add to the 450 entrepreneurs who have already adopted green practices, particularly in the areas of solid waste management, use of locally sourced and environment-friendly supplies, and energy efficiency.

Ensuring the sustainability of the ProGED project, this GED activity aims to enhance the capabilities of MSMEs in non-ProGED areas to practice green strategies in their businesses.

GED focal persons from Regions 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, National Capital Region (NCR), and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) participated in the said program.

The program was divided into three parts. During the first part, **GIZ ProGED Project Manager Dr. Volker Steigerwald**, **Senior Adviser Rita I. Pilarca**, and **Senior Adviser and Rounds Manager Raquel J. Capiro** provided lectures on Introduction to GED, Why Go Green, and Greening Strategies for MSMEs. In these sessions, participants learned the basic information about GED and the ProGED Process.

In the second portion of the program, MSMEs from Regions 3 and 4A currently implementing GED in their businesses shared their testimonials. **La Paz Prime Food Tarlac General Manager Virgin Mary A. Nicolas**, **Delfa's Food Product Inc. General Manager Ma. Isabel N. Punzalan**, and **Florida Lubao Organic Farmers Association Inc. President Maria Concepcion M. Arcega** mentioned both the challenges and breakthroughs they experienced when their businesses decided to go green.

DTI-Region 5 Assistant Regional Director Rodrigo M. Aguilar Jr., **DTI-Tarlac Provincial Director Agnes B. Ramirez**, and **Ms. Revelyn A. Cortez** from DTI-Cavite, GED focal persons of their respective offices, also imparted their experiences in promoting and implementing GED activities in their areas.

In the last part of the program, the participants underwent an exercise and a discussion about how non-ProGED regions can integrate GED in their existing programs, projects, and activities.