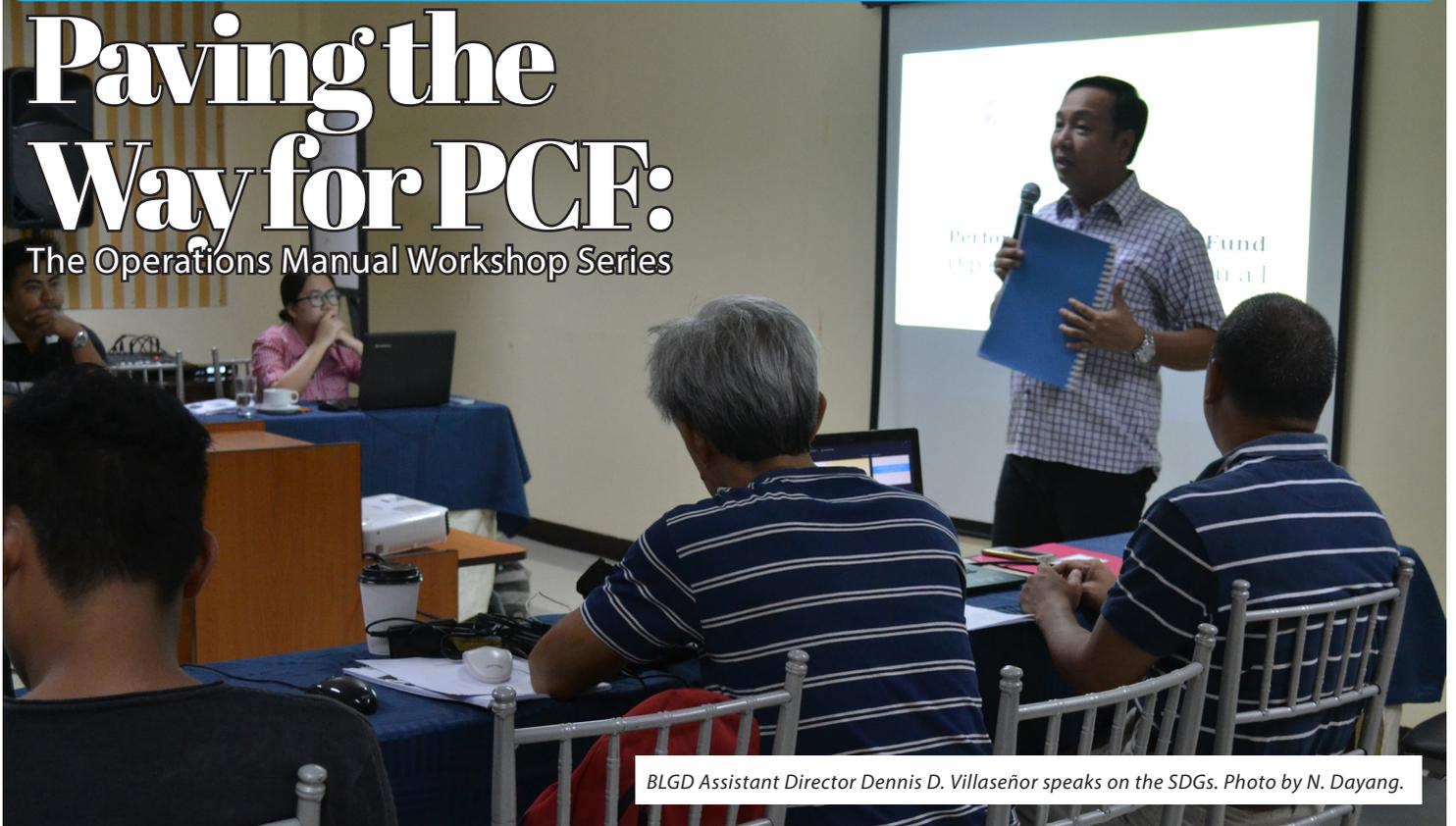




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## Paving the Way for PCF: The Operations Manual Workshop Series



BLGD Assistant Director Dennis D. Villaseñor speaks on the SDGs. Photo by N. Dayang.

In a series of sessions that began in the month of May, representatives from the Department of the Interior and Local Government's (DILG) central and regional offices, as well as guests from civil society organizations (CSOs) came together to break ground for the Performance Challenge Fund (PCF).

The PCF is a flagship performance-based reform program of the Department that grants an incentive to LGUs which are deemed eligible through the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), to finance high-impact local government projects identified as priority by the LGU and reflected accordingly in their Annual Investment Program (AIP).

Several developments have occurred in the LGUs since the PCF was first established in 2010. Thus, the workshops were launched to review the first version of the PCF's Operations Manual, which was compiled in 2013. The new PCF manual will streamline all relevant implementing guidelines, policies, practices and procedures necessary for PCF's success; be updated in accordance with new policy provisions in the LGUs, CSO participation, and COA policies; and be a clear, user-friendly, helpful guide to PCF point persons.

The first round of activities of the workshop took place on May 17-19 and was participated in by PCF focal persons and representatives from the bureaus and services of the DILG Central Office.

During the second round of the workshop, Regional Officers from all across the country were welcomed to add to the first round of revisions, and to share their unique experiences of PCF from the field.

Those who guested at the workshop were BLGD Director Anna Liza F. Bonagua and Region III Director Florida M. Dijan. Providing guidance to participants throughout the activities were BLGD Assistant Director Dennis D. Villaseñor and Policy Studies and Development Division Chief Zaldy I. Masangkay. Jesuit Volunteers Philippines Executive Director Benjamin Barretto was the consultant and chief facilitator of the sessions.

The workshops proved fruitful and engaging for the participants. Both the first and second round began with orientations on the PCF and its direction under outgoing President Aquino. The participants were then given time to break into groups, tackle assigned parts of the current Operations Manual, and critique sections according to their knowledge of the PCF process as it has evolved.

Some of the special highlights of the workshop were brainstorming sessions on how to be innovative with the Sustainable Development Goals and "role-playing sessions," in which groups pretended to be point persons in the PCF implementation process. The role-playing sessions were a crowd favorite and were enacted with humor—the participants shared that they enjoyed "being actors" and "stepping into each other's shoes," and appreciated seeing PCF from different perspectives, from that of the Undersecretaries to that of the Municipal Local Government Operations Officers (MLGOOs).

The last part of the workshop series will take place this July. The members of the DILG family look forward to using the new and improved PCF manual in the future to pave the way for greater impact in the different LGUs. —*Maria Amparo N. Warren, ICRD-PACS*

### DILG-CO QUALITY POLICY

We, the DILG Central Office, commit to formulate sound policies and provide effective technical and administrative services to promote excellence in local governance, strengthen local government capacities, and enhance the service delivery of our Regional and Field Offices.