

NEWS BITS

Strengthening Urban Resilience for Growth with Equity (SURGE) Project

Legazpi City and USAID mobilize support for Balangay in the Best Climate Practices 2017 Contest



(Left photo) USAID/SURGE Legazpi City Program Coordinator Jedel Tabamo (rightmost), Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal (second from the rightmost) and city officials discuss strategies to mobilize support for the Balangay Legazpi entry in the Best Climate Practices 2017. (Right photo) League of Villages (Liga ng mga Barangay) Member Andronico Geraldino (center) shares the significance of the mobile application at the community level and encourages all Legazpeños to vote for the entry.

On July 5, 2017, Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal with the assistance of USAID's Strengthening Urban Resilience for Growth with Equity (SURGE) Project mobilized city government departments to encourage all Legazpeños to vote for the city's Balangay entry to the international online contest Best Climate Practices 2017. Balangay is an open and cloud-based information system that provides announcements, hazard maps, guides to preparedness and hotlines of agencies related to disaster preparedness and response was shortlisted in the international online contest organized by the International Center for Climate Governance. The city government gathered representatives from the League of Villages (Liga ng mga Barangay), academe, private sector and regional government to gain support for Balangay Legazpi, not only as an entry in the contest, but as a new technology for disaster preparedness information dissemination. The mobile and web application was designed to capture the interest of the younger generation or millennials, tapping into their interest of building a real-time information network for their household and community in times of emergencies. Registered users on the Best Climate Practice website can rate and vote for the entry at <http://www.bestclimatepractices.org/practices/> until 11:00PM of July 26, 2017. USAID/SURGE coached and mentored the Legazpi City Government in packaging the submission of the Balangay project, data and information, and supporting documents last May 2017.