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for Disaster Risk Reduction**

Washington, DC. December 10, 2009—The World Bank, with funds from the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR,) is supporting the cities of **Makati**, Philippines, **Kathmandu**, Nepal, and **Quito**, Ecuador with a US\$450,000 grant towards establishing a **City-to-City Sharing Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**. This South to South Cooperation Initiative was specifically supported by the governments of Italy and Norway.

“The City Government of Makati has always been vigilant of the adverse effects of disasters on its constituents. This is why we have been very proactive in seeking means to reduce disaster risks,” said **Jejomar C Binay, Mayor of Makati**. “We believe this sharing initiative among the cities of Makati, Kathmandu and Quito will significantly strengthen our respective capabilities for disaster risk reduction, as it will give rise to more innovative, responsive and effective programs.”

This **City-to-City Sharing Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction** will create a partnership among the cities of Makati, Kathmandu and Quito to foster knowledge exchange, technical cooperation, and sharing of expertise in risk sensitive land use planning and local level emergency management. It will further additional technical and institutional capacity-building among city officials, managers, and professionals in critical areas such as earthquake hazard and vulnerability awareness, safe building technologies and community preparedness.

The grant is part of the GFDRR South-South Cooperation Program, a major initiative to facilitate collaboration among low- and middle-income countries to mainstream disaster risk reduction and recovery, including climate change adaptation, into development planning. The Program fosters greater leadership and ownership of the governments from developing countries on their disaster risk reduction agenda, providing opportunities for high risk countries to work jointly on common objectives and reduce their vulnerability.

“We are pleased to finance this initiative supporting the exchange of knowledge, innovation, technical cooperation, resource sharing and capacity building in the field of disaster risk management in these three major cities,” said **Bert Hofman, Country Director for the Philippines, East Asia, and Pacific Region at the World Bank**.

Kathmandu, Makati and Quito will implement the proposed activities with assistance from their national Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management departments, as well as technical assistance from the World Bank and GFDRR.

GFDRR

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A partnership of ACP Secretariat, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and The World Bank.

About GFDRR

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a partnership of 21 countries, the ACP Secretariat, the European Commission, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the World Bank, committed to helping disaster-prone developing countries and regions reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and adapt to climate change. GFDRR promotes technical and financial assistance to high-risk low- and middle-income countries based on a business model of ex-ante support to mainstream disaster risk reduction in national development strategies and investments, and ex post disaster assistance for sustainable recovery. As part of its mandate, GFDRR promotes global knowledge and good practices, supports initiatives for enhanced global and regional cooperation, and promotes greater South-South cooperation in disaster risk reduction. For more information, visit www.gfdr.org.