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Peer Solidarity: Mayors Mobilizing for Strong Local Governance and Development

Local Chief Executives (LCEs) from various localities across the country recently gathered to explore innovative approaches for enhancing local governance and development. Spearheaded by the Ateneo School of Government (ASOG), through the Executive Education Program, in collaboration with the International Center for Information, Transformation, and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov), a dynamic peer learning platform was conducted over several weeks, concluding on June 21, 2024.

Unlike traditional training methods, this workshop leveraged the collective knowledge of LCEs, fostering a collaborative environment. Sessions were designed to facilitate the co-creation of development strategies, translating theoretical insights into practical, actionable plans aimed at improving politics, governance, and development outcomes in their respective localities. The emphasis was on practical knowledge and real-world application.

During the culmination of the workshop, several common themes emerged as priorities for good governance in their localities. These include efficient resource use, policy, and institutional strengthening, enhancing the robustness and effectiveness of local policies and institutions, innovative service delivery mechanisms, and enhanced citizen participation by crafting better mechanisms to engage citizens in the governance process.

This partnership between ASOG and INCITEGov highlights their shared mission of fostering peer solidarity for robust local governance and development. As the first batch of this peer learning initiative concludes, the commitment of these organizations remains steadfast. They continue to support LCEs, empowering them to promote and uphold the principles of good governance within their jurisdictions.

The LCEs expressed optimism that these engagements will continue, recognizing their crucial role in enhancing governance and advancing initiatives aimed at improving service delivery and increasing citizen participation.