

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH**

15<sup>th</sup> Council Session  
February 26, 2008  
Davao City

**THE PRE-ENERGY SUMMIT CONFERENCE**

By Councilor Pilar C. Braga, PhD

Madam President, I am happy to report that the Committee on Energy, Transportation and Communication has successfully conducted a pre-summit conference last February 20, 2008 in one of the conference rooms here at Sangguniang Panlungsod.

The pre-summit conference was an important step in preparation for the actual local energy summit which we are planning to hold sometime in March this year.

Generally, the Pre-Summit Conference was aimed to generate ideas from the participants to determine the conduct, inputs and expected outputs of the Summit. The following were the specific objectives of the conference:

1. To come up with a feasible framework as guide for the Energy Summit;
2. To identify specific energy issues and concerns of each sectors that would serve as inputs to be deliberated in the Energy Summit;
3. To determine an efficient design whereby these sectoral issues and concerns can be ventilated, dissected and possibly responded to; and
4. To provide an atmosphere where sectoral synergy is appreciated and used as a response to pressing energy issues.

There were representatives from various sectors who came and actively participated in the conference – national government line agencies and local government units such as the Department of Energy, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Environment and Natural Resources; the Energy Regulatory Commission; industry and technology providers like the Davao Light and Power Company and the Davao City Water District and HEDCOR; the academe

and scientists represented by prestigious institutions like Ateneo de Davao University, Holy Cross of Davao College, UP-Mindanao and the University of Immaculate Conception; non-government organizations; the business sector, the Davao transport sector and representatives from the media.

The environment sector was also represented by such groups as the Kinaiyahan Foundation, Barog Kalikupan and Global Climate Change. Other NGOs were also represented like Konsumo Dabaw, the Alliance of Progressive Labor and the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

The conference started promptly at 9:00 AM and proceeded without any hitch and ended with a very productive note at 12:30 PM. The design of the conference was such that all sector representatives were given time to articulate their concerns and issues in the group sessions – the participants were grouped according to their sector and they were able to discuss, deliberate and decide on which issues and concerns were to be included in the planned Local Energy Summit. To be exact, one hour and fifteen minutes was set aside for the group workshop. After the workshop, each group was given time to present their output.

The conference was fortunate to have Dr. Edmundo Prantilla, former USEP President and Ms. Madel Morados, retired former Region XI Director of DOST, both ranking officials of RECORD Foundation who lend their expertise in the conduct of the conference.

As a synthesis, the participants to the conference collectively indicated that the following concerns and issues be included in the coming Local Energy Summit:

1. The Review, repeal, scrapping of the Oil Deregulation Law
2. The Absolute dependency of households, business, institutions and industries on non-renewable source of energy
3. Exploration and testing of alternative sources and technology for energy considering the type alternative sources existing in Mindanao

4. Social responsibility of Individuals and Institutions in the efficient use of energy and technology, lifestyle change, driving habits and other positive behavior
5. Fuel efficiency of national and local transport vehicles which would include providing mass transport system for Mindanao, calibrating centers, emission tests
6. Research and Development which would include strengthen linkage of academe, government and scientists, technology transfer, inventory of energy-related technology
7. Strong support from LGU in terms of LGU-funded research for alternative sources of energy, policy legislation in support of local scientists, inter-energy forum on energy issues.

Furthermore, the issues identified were classified into five (5) headings, namely:

- a. Energy Conservation Issues which consists of sub-issues as Energy Auditing, Lighting Technology, Building Design and Technology, Transport System and Technology, Production Technology and Energy Distribution technology
- b. Energy Demand Projection Issues consisting of Residential Demands, Institutional Demands, Commercial Demands, Transport Demands, and Industrial Demands
- c. Energy Generation Issues to include Bio-Energy Sources, Oil-Based, Coal-Based, Solar, Hydro-Power, Thermal Power, Geo-Thermal, Hydrogen-Based and Nuclear Fusion
- d. Research and Development Issues comprising of the following: Computerized Energy Data Base, Research and Development Priorities, List of Energy Experts, Training Program for Researches, Energy Auditors
- e. Policies and Recommendations covering such issues as local energy ordinances, adoption of lighting technology, transport system, water supply, and energy conservation advocacy.

These inputs hopefully will provide us with the necessary framework for the issues that will be tackled during the Energy Summit in March.

On the other hand, the pre-summit conference provided us with several insights which will be useful in the future for resolving other future issues of importance. These insights are as follows:

1. The people, our constituents will only be too willing to participate in any consultations because they believe in the power of their voices;
2. Take time to listen to our constituents – they have their stories to tell, too;
3. It is always best to work in coordination, in collaboration, and in partnership with all sectors;
4. The time to prepare for a crisis is before it happens.

Madam President, allow me to pass a resolution regarding this matter at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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City Councilor