“Potentials and Challenges in the Cordillera Administrative Region”

Regional Conference on Industry Roadmaps and AEC Game Plan: Roadmap Localization for Competitiveness

DIR. MILAGROS A. RIMANDO
NEDA-CAR

Baguio Country Club, Baguio City
9:55am-10:10pm, May 28, 2015
- landlocked mountainous region
- its physiographic character brings with it a cool climate
- 85% forestland
- More than one-third lies 1000 meters above sea level
KEY DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS

1. resource-based industry development
   - Hydro power
   - Wood industry
   - Tourism

2. Crop production and agro-based industries

3. Technology and knowledge-based industries

4. Education and manpower development
1. resource-based industry development

host to 13 major river basins, hence referred to as the “Watershed Cradle of the North”
KEY DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS

- watershed resources such as timber and minor forest products are available for the wood industry and wood-based light industries

- scenic landscapes and rich biodiversity afforded by watersheds plus a unique cultural experience are tourism attractions
KEY DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS

- 13 major river basins with an estimated drainage area of 18,293 square kilometers suitable for water and energy exploration

- Total potential **hydropower** of 3,587 megawatts (27% national)
  
  - Cordillera Energy Master Plan

Ambuklao Dam
2. Crop production and agro-based industries

- **coffee** (CAR OTOP)
- **Cabbage**, other temperate vegetables such as **broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, potato, etc**
- **cutflowers**
- **Other high value organic vegetables (kale, red cabbage etc)**
- **Heirloom rice**

Cordillera Coffee Development Plan completed
3. Technology and Knowledge-Based Industries

- Baguio consistently in Top Ten Next Wave cities
- Baguio among 100 global outsourcing destinations
- continued operation and possible expansion of the Baguio Ecozone (electronics & machinery)
- developing metals industry (aerospace and agri-industrial manufacturing technology)
4. Education and manpower development

• CAR as a prime education center in North Luzon with quality higher education institutions and technical/vocational institutions (Cordillera Education Master Plan)
SOME MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Physical Access
- Vulnerability to Weather-Related Disasters and Effects of Climate Change
- Protecting the environment, the base of a mountain economy
- Increasing production/improving
- Developing MSMEs/upgrading their capacities and integrating them into the production chain
SOME MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Physical Access.
  - Regional road system still a concern with 62.75% of total national roads paved (December 2014, DPWH)
  - Baguio Airport is functional but awaiting commercial operations

- Not fully operational
- Absence of commercial flights
- Poor visibility conditions
- Inadequate navigational aids
- Runway crossed by people, vehicles and animals
SOME MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Vulnerability to Weather-Related Disasters and Effects of Climate Change e.g., steep slopes (about 90%) renders the region more prone to rain-induced landslides; frost...

Formulation of Cordillera Agri-Resiliency Plan ongoing

FROST on Benguet veggies
MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Protecting the environment, the base of a mountain economy - encroaching into the forest areas, timber poaching, etc. that cause biodiversity loss, devalues tourism sites, and affects resource-based livelihood activities, among others

Cordillera Declaration of Principles for Environmental Governance (DPEG) completed

“Rotting vegetables and assorted garbage dumped by vegetable farmers in the Mt. Data watershed”. DEXTER SEE
Increasing production/improving productivity viz. production technologies appropriate to the regional context, e.g., small farm sizes, mountain terrain, dispersed settlements, etc.
MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Developing MSMEs/upgrading their capacities and integrating them into the production chain

- bamboo furniture making, Abra
- pottery, Mt. Prov.
- coffee processing, Kalinga
- wood carving, Ifugao
- weaving, Mt. Prov.
http://car.neda.gov.ph