Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR INDUSTRY, ENERGY AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (PCIEERD)

MEMORANDUM

FOR **CARLOS PRIMO C. DAVID, Ph. D.**
Executive Director, PCIEERD

Attention to: OED Information Group

FROM **ENGR. NELSON P. BENIABON**
Division Chief, ETDD

SUBJECT **SUBMISSION OF PHIL LIDAR 2 PROGRAM'S GEOSPATIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD NEWS WRITE-UP FOR POSSIBLE POSTING IN THE PCIEERD WEBSITE AND PRESS-RELEASE OF THE INFO GROUP**

DATE October 8, 2015

We are pleased to inform you that the Department of Science and Technology has been awarded of the Asia Geospatial Excellence Award for the DOST-GIA program titled ***PHIL LIDAR 2: Nationwide Detailed Resources Assessment using LIDAR.*** The said award was received by the program leader, Dr. Ariel C. Blanco, upon his attendance to the GeoSmart Asia 2015 Conference held last 29 September – 1 October, 2015 at the Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In this regard, we are transmitting herewith the news write-up for possible posting in PCIEERD's official website and press release by the Information Group.

Kindly see attached for your reference.

Thank you very much.

PHIL LIDAR 2 Program wins Asia Geospatial Excellence Award 2015

29 September, 2015, Inaugural Session of GeoSmart Asia 2015 Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) once again received the Asia Geospatial Excellence Award through its funded R&D program, **PHIL LIDAR 2: Nationwide Detailed Resources Assessment using LiDAR**. The award is given to various institutions to recognize the exemplary innovations and practices in the Geospatial industry in the Asia Pacific at the annual GeoSmart Asia (Formerly Asia Geospatial Forum).

The award was received by Dr. Ariel C. Blanco, PHIL LIDAR 2 Program Leader, who also attended the conference to present a paper on *Geospatial Technologies in Natural Resources Assessment, Environment and Climate Change Related Studies* wherein he highlighted the PHIL LIDAR 2 Program.

Ms. Mary Joy Buitre, Science Research Specialist 1 of the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology also presented PHIL LIDAR 2 on a separate session, G-Governance and Smart Applications. Engr. Merriam M. Santillian and Engr. Jojene Santillan of the Caraga State University (CarSU), meanwhile, presented papers about PHIL LIDAR 1 during the technical session for Climate Change and Disaster Management.

PHIL-LIDAR 2 was conceptualized as complementary to existing programs of various national government agencies and to assist local government units in mapping the Philippines' natural resources. The project uses state of the art technologies such as LiDAR and other remote-sensing and GIS technologies to generate high-resolution resource maps and resource vulnerability maps that provide detailed assessment of the country's natural resources such as high-value agricultural crops, coastal resources, forest, hydrological and renewable energy resources. This will help to formulate recommendations and address future local supply and demand in agriculture, coastal, forest, and renewable resources. This is accomplished through a collaboration among State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and private higher education institutions (HEIs) in the processing and validation of LiDAR data, as well as the development of resource valuation models. Phil-LiDAR 2 is one of the biggest collaboration of a multi-disciplinary pool of researchers coming from different provinces of the Philippines.

A total of 769 researchers and experts were trained in the PHIL LIDAR program. It is considered first of its kind and the biggest collaboration of multidisciplinary researchers and experts from public and private academic institutions of the country. The program is also supported by national government agencies: Department of Agriculture; Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Department of Energy; and DOST.

After a year, an Agricultural Mapping Forum and Turnover Ceremony was held last July 21-22, 2015 to distribute the 32 agricultural maps to its beneficiaries. It was participated in by policy-makers, municipal planners, SUCs / HEIs and media.

The program capacitated researchers and engineers to utilize LiDAR and other remote sensing/GIS data for resource inventory and vulnerability assessment. With the capability shared throughout the country, it is envisioned that human resources be sustained by developing regional hubs of LiDAR data processing and mapping services. These will cater the needs of the local communities for accurate and updated geospatial information. Local government officials can formulate science-based policies to address and sustain local supply and demand in agriculture, aquatic, forest and renewable energy resources. Providing detailed

resource maps will improve monitoring, planning and management of the country's natural resources.

Last year, UP-TCAGP and DOST received two prestigious awards for the Nationwide Disaster Risk Exposure and Assessment for Mitigation (DREAM) Program, namely, the Geospatial World Excellence in Policy Award and the Asia Geospatial Excellence Award. Both were awarded in recognition of the remarkable efforts made by the researchers lead by its program leader, Dr. Enrico C. Paringit. These awards were also recognized by the Philippine government, hence, creating the "House Resolution No. 194 Resolution Commending the DOST for Winning the Prestigious Geospatial World Excellence in Policy Implementation Award for 2014, for its DREAM Program." Dr. Paringit also received the Outstanding Young Scientist (OYS) Award early this year.

With the implementation of the PHIL-LIDAR 2 program, potential research works are continuously being explored and is expected to give significant contributions to the Philippines in various aspects of the government and society as a whole.

Pictures: