

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the Asia-Pacific region, rapid urbanization fueled economic growth in most countries. With this growth came social repercussions related to equity of access to land, population density, and environmental crises. Poverty became concentrated in less favorable areas and the vulnerable have become more challenged. Amidst rapid urbanization, rising poverty incidence in rural areas and food insecurity, the land agenda has peaked at the global level. Various tools and interventions have been formulated to address these land-related issues.

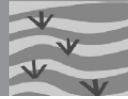
Land is complex. Its governance, management and administration continues to evolve. In many countries, the land administration system is often inherited from colonial administrators, and is controlled by special interest groups such as lawyers and surveyors. Numerous reforms in land administration and management have been taken into action to improve land tenure security, land valuation processes, land use planning, and development projects. Land administration reform is more than systematic registration. There needs to be clear policy, good laws and strong well-financed and resourced institutions with a focus on service delivery.

An effective land administration and management system is key to achieving secure tenure for all. Land administration projects, if effective and participatory, can facilitate land reform and agrarian justice through laws and policies.

Main issues and challenges in land administration and management projects revolved around institutional mandates, land information and disputes. Often, there are numerous institutions with overlapping mandates on the administration and management of land. This plurality leads to inefficiency in land governance as related agencies lack coordination, award overlapping tenurial instruments, and resolve less land conflicts. At the same time, the non-implementation of land use policies hinders effective land administration and management.

During the two-day forum, the 42 participants agreed to work on three areas: policy, tooling and information networking.

The center point of land administration and management systems should always be the people, focusing on peoples' relationship to the land, their context and their community. Systems should also recognize the plurality of tenurial forms, from formal to informal. To effectively address the challenges on land administration and management, key intervention on tooling as part of a continuing capacity building practice of both CSOs and governments for better land governance



should be implemented. While a number of tools have been developed (e.g., participatory land use planning, spatial mapping, capacity building, inclusive decision making, participatory conflict management and alternative dispute mechanisms), there is still a need to contextualize them into different country characteristics. On the other hand, regular sharing of laws and mechanisms/processes on land administration among countries can go a long way. Government agencies from different countries can also start sharing challenges and successful methods and experiences.

ANGOC and GLTN shall continue to facilitate and foster multi-stakeholder dialogues to understand and address the land challenges raised in the forum. Coming from various platforms, campaigns and processes, the challenge for this regional platform is on bringing and expanding synergy among CSOs, government, academe and private sectors. ■