

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Building Green 2023 Conference: Mayor Jonas C. Cortes Shares Mandaue City's Journey Towards Sustainable Development

Panglao, Bohol, Philippines, September 30, 2023 - The Building Green 2023 Conference, held at the Modala Resort in Panglao, Bohol, was graced by the presence of Mayor Jonas C. Cortes of Mandaue City. Mayor Cortes is a renowned advocate for sustainability and has been instrumental in advancing the green building movement in the City of Mandaue.

As Mayor of Mandaue City since 2007, with a short stint as its Congressman from 2016 to 2019, Mayor Cortes has consistently sought ways to balance progress with sustainability. In 2013, he initiated efforts to incorporate sustainable practices in Mandaue City's built environment. Today, through his dedicated commitment and leadership, he continues to inspire the younger generation to champion the cause of building green.

During his speech at the Building Green 2023 Conference, Mayor Cortes highlighted the urgent need to address the challenges of the climate crisis and find sustainable solutions. As a densely populated, highly urbanized industrial city, Mandaue City was experiencing the effects of the urban heat island phenomenon due to its concrete jungle. This realization ignited Mandaue's movement towards building green.

Over the past decade, Mandaue City has crafted its own Green Building Ordinance, fully adopting the Philippine Green Building Council's (PHILGBC) BERDE rating system. The ordinance was meticulously developed through a series of 16 consultations with various stakeholders. To further support sustainability in the city, the Mandaue Green Building Board was established, aiming to innovate, engage stakeholders, and create policies for building green. The Office of the Building Official also transformed into the Green Building Office as part of their commitment to the cause.

To encourage developers to join the advocacy, Mandaue City offers incentives for BERDE-certified buildings beyond what is mandatory, such as additional floor area or tax rebates. Mayor Cortes emphasized that Mandaue revisited and enhanced these incentives through amendments to the green building ordinance, which were passed earlier this year. The city also incorporated its Green Building Ordinance into the City's Landmark Environmental Code.

Mayor Cortes proudly announced that several buildings in Mandaue City, including those in Mandani Bay, have achieved BERDE certification, some even receiving a 5-star rating. The city is

leading by example as its upcoming landmark government projects, the socialized low-rise housing project for 500 fire victims and the new Mandaue City Government Center, are targeted to be certified as BERDE buildings. These projects demonstrate Mandaue City's commitment to balance sustainability and progress.

To ensure the knowledge and competency of personnel, Mandaue City has trained and certified several employees as BERDE Professionals, with the support of PHILGBC. Currently, the city boasts 34 Certified Green Building Professionals and 6 consultants who are also CBPs. In fact, most members of the Green Building Board are Certified BERDE Professionals.

Moreover, Mandaue City recognizes the importance of engaging the youth in adopting green building practices. Through the BERDE Youth Orientation Program, the city is actively collaborating with schools and youth organizations to instill in young minds the consciousness and urgency of sustainable practices. Mayor Cortes and his team have already engaged leaders from the youth sector and students from Cebu Technological University and Mandaue City College in this movement.

Mayor Cortes concluded by inviting more individuals and institutions to join Mandaue City on this journey towards sustainable development. He instilled the belief that building green is not a new concept but rather a return to our roots and building with our environment in mind. By embracing this mindset, Mandaue City stands united as one community moving for progress and sustainability.

On behalf of Mayor Cortes, Atty. Jamaal James Calipayan, City Administrator of the City of Mandaue, delivered the inspiring speech at the Building Green 2023 Conference.

For more information, please contact:

Ma. Anna G. Tungol
Executive Director, National Secretariat
secretariat@philgbc.org
0917-8901018

About PHILGBC:

The Philippine Green Building Council (PHILGBC) is a non-stock, non-profit organization that promotes the transformation of the built environment through sustainable practices. Established in 2007, PHILGBC seeks to be a united and influential national movement promoting green building practices towards mitigating climate change. As a member of the World Green Building Council, PHILGBC actively contributes to global efforts to create a sustainable built environment.

###

Note to editors:

High-resolution photos and additional information are available upon request.

