

PDRF forges new partnerships for disaster resilience

Following its board meeting, the PDRF bolstered partnerships with groups critical to resilience:

- **WEATHER PHILIPPINES (WPF)**

WPF and PDRF signed a Memorandum of Understanding to boost efficiencies in early warning and resilience against meteorological disasters. WPF offers its expertise in weather forecasting and expedites dissemination of early warnings and alerts via a downloadable app called 'WeatherPhilippines'.

- **E-HEALTH CENTERS**

The Makati Medical Center Foundation (MMCF) partnered with PDRF to operate eHealth Centers in Tacloban and Biliran island, the first of their kind in the country. The eHealth Centers are containerized units equipped with cloud-enabled healthcare solutions designed and donated by Hewlett Packard that connect patients in remote areas to quality medical care. The eHealth Centers also provide remote consultation services using built-in videoconferencing options that allow the staff to tap into medical specialist expertise provided by MMC. Eleven city and barangay health workers were trained in Makati Medical Centers as part of the project.

- **SHELL**

PDRF and Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. (PSFI) signed a Memorandum of Agreement to jointly undertake mangrove and beach forest protection and rehabilitation efforts in areas affected by Typhoon Yolanda. Mangroves are critical ecological buffers that protect coastlines and shield vulnerable in-land areas during storms, minimizing damage such as those sustained during Yolanda. Shell's Country Manager, Ed Chua, turned over Php 1 million for the program.

- **RAPPLER**

Social news network Rappler signed an MOU with the organization to augment information management on disaster risk reduction and preparedness. PDRF and Rappler will work together in sharing information via the Project Agos soft-ware, a platform that harnesses technology to maximize the flow of critical data before, during and after a disaster by combining top-down government action and bottom-up civic engagement.