

PDRF signs pact for Disaster Operations Center

The Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF) has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and Clark Development Corp. to set up a Disaster Operations Center (DOC).

The DOC is a hub for preparing and responding to disasters. With this formal agreement, PDRF will be allowed to use a building located at the Clark Polytechnic Compound within the Clark Freeport Zone free of charge for 10 years and renewable under terms agreed upon by the parties.

Clark was the chosen site for the DOC as it is a low-risk area in terms of disasters. It is close to an airport, seaport and the national road network. The building will be retro-fitted as necessary to be resilient to multiple hazards and will include a stand-alone renewable energy system.

Signatories of the MOA include CDC president and CEO Arthur Tugade, BCDA president and CEO Arnel Paciano Casanova and PDRF president Rene Meily. The signing ceremony, held at Meralco last May 26, was also witnessed by PDRF co-chairmen Manuel V. Pangilinan (PLDT/Smart Communications chairman) and Jaime Zobel de Ayala (chairman and CEO of Ayala Corp.).

In the same event, PDRF also sealed a partnership with the University of the Philippines-Institute for Small Scale Industries (UP-ISSI) in the conduct of Business Continuity Planning for MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) of economic lifeline industries such as power, fuel, water and telecommunications.