



# Paglaurum

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## PILG-HSF PUSH FEDERALISM TALKS



**Federalism talks gain momentum in Iligan City.** In a bid to deepen understanding and awareness of federalism, a seminar held at Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology in Iligan City drew 166 attendees last November 22, 2023.

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### *PILG cites HSF-aided Activities for 2023*

By Clarisse Aquino

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance has released a comprehensive report of its activities that were aided by its partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation in 2023.

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG), jointly with the Hanns Siedel Foundation vowed to continue keeping the Filipinos abreast of the national discourse on federalism, local governance and related national issues of importance.

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance in partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation-Philippine Office, planned the most effective medium possible to disseminate information and foster meaningful exchange ideas, touching on the relevance of federalism in the current issues

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### *Federalism podcast focuses on role of barangays in local gov't*

By Clarisse Aquino

With the aim of providing a more comprehensive understanding of the smallest political unit of government in the Philippines, a recent episode of the PILG's Fed Talk Podcast on October 6, 2023, centered on the "Importance of Barangay and SK Election: An Overview."

The podcast likewise stressed the significance of active participation in the Barangay and SK elections which was held October 30, 2023.

Special guest Atty. Michael Henry Yusingco, of the Ateneo's School of Government, joined by host Atty. Gwen Pimentel-Gana of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance, focused

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## Federalism talks gain momentum in Iligan City From Page 1

The sustained federalism discussions was joined by students, faculty, and guests, of Mindanao State University in Iligan.

The activity was under the auspices of the Hanns Seidel Foundation Philippines and the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance.

The event provided a platform for generating a momentum on federalism talks, emphasizing its value and challenges in the context of Philippine political development.

Under the moderation of Prof. Melba Angni, assisted by Ms. Clarisse Aquino, the seminar kicked off with Atty. Elmar Martin Jay Dejaresco's discussion on the Basic Powers and Structure of the Philippine Government. The focus was on the present government settings, highlight the deeply centralized system pervading in the Philippine political structure.

He emphasized the key features of unitary government and powers. Dejaresco highlighted the concentration of vital powers in the national government, shaping decisions at other government levels.

Dr. Manuel Jaudian, the second speaker, delved into the applicability of federalism to the Philippine setting.

Explicitly distinguishing concepts from earlier discussions, he explored debates on unitary versus federal systems, devolution versus shared powers, and exclusive taxation versus shared taxation.

Prof. Edmund Tayao, the third speaker, provided clarity on federalism's goals, addressing issues of self-determination, conflict resolution,



**Atty. Elmar Jay Dejaresco**

and its potential as a political solution for diverse groups within the country.

The fourth speaker, Atty. Luis Ma. Gil Gana, discussed the intersection of Federalism and Human Rights, emphasizing their compatibility and mutually reinforcing objectives.

The open forum session reflected strong student interest in federalism, fostering enthusiasm to comprehend the concept further. The seminar encouraged participants to broaden discussions about federalism to increase awareness and deepen understanding of its benefits, issues, and challenges.

Resource persons addressed participants' concerns, leading to meaningful discussions.

Participants confirmed the usefulness and relevance of the information provided, identifying challenges in introducing a federal system in the country.

The seminar concluded with participants expressing strong support



**Atty. Luis Ma. Gil Gana**

for sustained federalism discussions.

They suggested conducting more forums nationwide, especially in schools, to help the youth better understand federalism as a system of government. As the sails of federalism catch the fair winds, these discussions are seen as crucial in navigating towards the desired goal of implementing a federal form of government in the Philippines.



Editorial Director **Jay Dejaresco**

Contributing Writers **Clarisse Aquino**  
**Jay Dejaresco**

Artist/Photographer **reyronda**  
Publisher **Gwen Gana**  
Editorial Consultant **Alex Brillantes**  
Editorial Staff **Clarisse Aquino**

**Pimentel Institute for Leadership & Governance**  
Unit 403, Maga Centre, 1016 San Antonio Street,  
Paseo de Magallanes, Makati City 1232  
Telephone No.: 8853-0224 to 25  
Email: [rcroffice@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:rcroffice@yahoo.com.ph)  
Website: [www.pimentelinstitute.org](http://www.pimentelinstitute.org)



**Prof. Edmund Tayao**



**Dr. Mauel Jaudian**

**Hanns  
Seidel  
Foundation**

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## PILG cites HSF-aided Activities for 2023 From Page 1

affecting the nation.

The PILG-HSF collaboration was able to hold discussions with participants on the significance of Federalism, and local governance especially in times of crisis, cross-referencing the discussion with the different national and local issues.

These were done by conducting online seminars, and social media posting to effectively reach out to various stakeholders.

Project objectives of the partnership are to educate, inform and apprise people on the significance of Federalism and local governance, and how it can help better their lives by strengthening partnerships with the different Local Government Units all over the country.

These activities focused on increased awareness, interest and deeper understanding of Federalism..

For year 2023, PILG in partnership with the Hanns Siedel Foundation, were able to conduct the following online and face to face seminars focusing on the agenda of federalism, devolution, decentralization and local governance:

1. Three(3) Seminars on Federalism 101 Course.
  - July 8, 2023 – The seminar was conducted via zoom and participated by twenty-two (22) Batang Transformers Alumni.
  - September 7, 2023 – Seminar on federalism were done in Marawi City one of the cities under the regional government of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The venue of the federalism seminar was the main campus of the Mindanao State University and participated by 169 attendees, students, faculty and guests.
  - November 22, 2023 - Continued discussions on federalism were conducted in Marawi State University- Iligan Institute of Technology, Iligan City last November 22, 2023, with 166 attendees, students, faculty and guests, including student leaders from MSU-Naawan.
2. On April 17, 2023 PILG-HSF in coordination with the Eurac



**Meeting with the new HSF Resident Representative Alexander Birle, with PILG President Atty. Gwen Pimentel-Gana, Ms. Clarisse Aquino and Carole Lee.**

Research, Italy, a groundbreaking virtual program, a cross-continental exchange took place between a panel of speakers on the issue of regionalism in both Italy and the Philippines.

The exchange of experience highlighted the experiences Autonomous Region of South Tyrol, Italy, and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Philippines.

3. Two (2) podcasts were aired.

- October 6, 2023 - : Fed Talk at the PILG: Topic: Importance of Barangay and SK Election: An Overview

The podcast provided the viewers broader and deeper knowledge about Barangay as a smallest political unit of government in the Philippines, and understanding the importance of participating in the coming Barangay and SK election.

- November 30, 2023 Fed Talk at the PILG: Local Autonomy and Inter-Regional Governance

The podcast focused its discussion about the importance of understanding Regional Governance in the Philippines.

4. Aside from online seminars, PILG also initiated the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance Core

Group Meeting :Moving Forward with Information and Engagement.

5. Held last August 18, in Germans Club, Makati and September 15, in Cgayan de Oro City. Some were in physical attendance and others are via zoom. The attendees were the scholars of the PILG-HSF in various federalism conferences abroad.

It was productive exchange with directions suggested for consideration for future activities such as the use of the Bayanihan Draft Constitution as submitted by the Consultative Committee.

This would bring the discussion to Visayas and tapping local experts who speak the language to help promote better understanding and open discussion; and the possible integration of federalism as a subject into the academic curriculum.

The PILG looks forward to future collaboration with our programs and projects on Federalism and Local governance with the unwavering support of Hanns Seidel Foundation to sustain and expand programs on Federalism and Local Governance.

HSF's continued support has been instrumental in advancing the shared mission of promoting awareness and understanding of federalism, local governance, and related national issues.

# MARAWI CITY GAB SPURS ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR FEDERALISM ADVOCACY

By Clarisse Aquino



Marawi City, situated within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, recently hosted a dynamic federalism seminar at the main campus of Mindanao State University.

Attended by 169 participants, the event spearheaded by the Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr, Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) featured speakers who discussed critical aspects of federalism, generating enthusiasm and support for its adoption in the Philippines.

The activity was under the initiative of the Hanns Seidel Foundation Philippines, which is pushing for sustained discussion about federalism.

Dr. Jaudian a well-known media personality in Mindanao, emphasized

the need for the voices of people, especially those distant from the central government, to be heard and recognized.

Federalism expert Prof. Edmund Tayao provided clarity on federalism's goals, focusing on issues of self-determination, conflict resolution, and its potential as a political solution for diverse groups within the country.

Atty. Francis Tom Temprosa, a legal expert in the field of human rights, discussed the possible changes in life due to federalism, highlighting its implications for human rights protection and promotion.

He underscored federalism's link to self-rule, autonomy, and democracy, asserting that it can promote democratic principles and respect for human rights.



Atty. Francis Tom Temprosa

The open forum sessions revealed a keen interest, particularly among the youth, in adopting a federal form of government.

Notably, Marawi City's affiliation with the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region drew attention as a concrete attempt to distribute vital government powers to regional governments.

Encouragement to further discussions on federalism echoed through the session, emphasizing the need to intensify awareness and deepen understanding of the system's advantages, issues, and challenges.

Resource persons addressed participant concerns, fostering a constructive dialogue.

Participants confirmed the relevance of the information provided, identifying challenges that need consideration in introducing a federal system.

The importance of keeping the citizenry informed about federalism's value in a diverse nation like the Philippines was emphasized.

Post-seminar, an evaluation form gauged participants' understanding, leading to a post-evaluation meeting.

The consensus was to continue such discussions on federalism, recognizing it as a significant way to deepen understanding, highlighting both advantages and challenges.

Participants suggested conducting more forums nationwide, especially in schools, to help the youth comprehend federalism as a system of government. With ongoing support, the hope is to navigate towards the goal of implementing a federal form of government in the Philippines, with potential collaborations with institutions like MSU for future seminars.

## *Federalism podcast focuses on role of barangays in local gov't* From Page 1

on the theme, "Understanding Barangay and Local Governance."

The podcast emphasized key points related to the crucial role of Barangay in the democratic process and the responsibilities of engaged citizenry.

The Key Discussion Points raised were:

- **Big Responsibility of Voters:** Participating in elections is a significant responsibility for voters.
- **Value of Barangay:** Atty. Yusingco emphasized the importance of understanding the value of Barangay.
- **Front Line of Government:** Barangay serves as the front line of the government, embodying a kapitbahaynan culture focused on the community.
- **Non-Partisan Elections:** Barangay elections are deemed non-partisan, and the primary role is to represent the community, not a political party.
- **Candidate Requirements:** Anyone meeting the basic legal requirements can run for Barangay, but a good and viable program for the community is crucial.
- **Anti-Dynasty Provisions:** The new SK



law includes anti-dynasty provisions, promoting fair representation.

- **Choosing Candidates:** Voters should prioritize candidates with practical, creative, and attainable goals for the community.
- **Viable Livelihood Programs:** Barangays and SKs have funds, and candidates should focus on viable livelihood programs.
- **Responsibility of the Community:** Barangay is not solely responsible for

everything; the community should actively take responsibility.

The Fed Talk Podcast highlighted the importance of informed and responsible voting, urging citizens to evaluate candidates based on their commitment to the community rather than political affiliations. The podcast emphasized that Barangay belongs to the people, and citizens should actively engage in local governance.

## **REGIONALISM IN THE PH HIGHLIGHTED IN PODCAST**

By: Jay Dejaresco

Regionalism in the Philippines, an often overlooked, but crucial aspect of governance, was highlighted in a thought-provoking podcast aired on November 30, 2023, titled "Fed Talk at the PILG: Local Autonomy and Inter-Regional Governance,"

Atty. Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana, President of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance, engaged in a dynamic conversation with guest speaker Atty. Michael Henry Yusingco an expert in the subject of Philippine governance .

The podcast aimed to focus and shed light on the concept of Inter-Regional Governance in the Philippines.

The primary objective of the podcast was to provide a comprehensive understanding of Inter-Regional Governance in the Philippine context

The theme, "Local Autonomy and Inter-Regional Governance," guided the discussions throughout the podcast.

The podcast delved into various aspects of Regional Governance in the Philippines, emphasizing its significance

and challenges in unitary system of government in the Philippines.

Some of the insights from the discussion dealt with Regional governance as a term less commonly used in Philippine governance discourse, but plays a crucial role as a sub-national level of government.

Atty Yusingco emphasized that regional governance, which is positioned between the central government and local governments, involves smaller political and territorial subdivisions, commonly known as autonomous regions in the Philippines.

He said that the 1987 Constitution allows for regionalism, emphasizing unity among provinces, while regional governance encourages coordination among sub-national entities.

He explained that the provinces, contrary to common belief, do not exemplify regional governance; but are distinct entities as political subdivisions in the Philippine political landscape.

There have been difficulties in putting into operation the regional governments which are the Bangsamoro Autonomous

Region in Muslim Mindanao or the BARMM and the Cordillera Autonomous Region.

Challenges in establishing regional governance stem from institutional and political culture differences, creating hurdles in collaborative efforts, Atty Yusingco said.

Advocates for regional governance argue for constitutional amendments or legislative reforms, citing the need for autonomy, akin to the structure of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Despite challenges, Atty Yusingco said that the importance of pursuing regional governance is to be underscored, citing that emphasizing collaboration and a cooperative approach is needed to address structural issues.

The podcast concluded with a call to action for local government officials to explore the potential benefits of regional governance, stressing the importance of unity and collaborative efforts in shaping the future of governance in the Philippines.

# ONLINE SEMINAR EMPOWERS YOUTH FOR FEDERALISM

By Clarisse Aquino

In a recent online seminar last July 8, 2023, twenty two (22) Batang Transformer Alumni participated in a comprehensive discussion on federalism, aiming to broaden the knowledge base of this system of government in various sectors of Philippine society.

Conducted via Zoom, the seminar's primary objective was to sustain discussions on federalism, providing participants with a basic understanding of its value and challenges within the context of Philippine political development.

Moderated by Prof. Melba Angni, the program featured three speakers who delved into crucial aspects of federalism. Atty. Elmar Martin Jay Dejaresco discussed the Basic Powers and Structure of the Philippine Government, focusing on the present government settings, levels of government, and key features of unitary government and powers.

Dr. Manuel Jaudian initiated discussions on federalism's applicability to the Philippine setting, exploring debates on unitary versus federal systems, devolution versus shared powers, and exclusive taxation versus shared taxation.



Prof. Edmund Tayao provided clarity on federalism's goals, addressing issues of self-determination and conflict resolution. The potential of federalism as a practical solution for diverse groups within a country was emphasized.

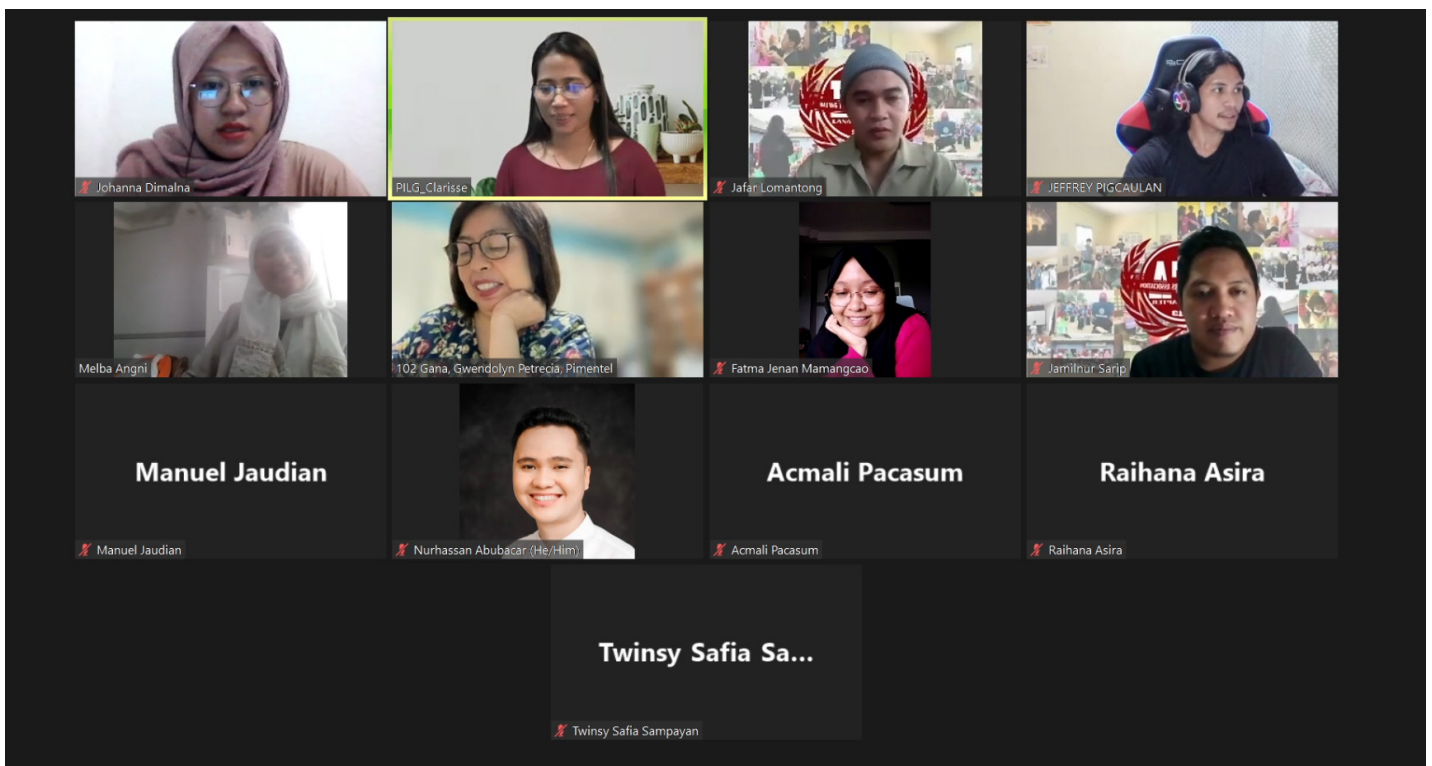
During the open forum, participants expressed a keen interest in federalism, particularly the youth. The Q&A session revealed an atmosphere of open-mindedness towards adopting a federal form of government in the Philippines.

The event drew encouragement to intensify awareness and deepen understanding of the advantages, issues, and challenges of adopting a federal system. Participants confirmed the relevance of the information provided

and identified challenges that need consideration.

The seminar concluded with a call for continued discussions on federalism, recognizing its significance in deepening understanding and pointing out its advantages and challenges. Participants suggested conducting similar forums nationwide, especially in schools, to help the youth comprehend federalism as a system of government.

These sustained discussions, exemplified by the online Federalism Seminar, are seen as crucial in navigating towards the goal of implementing a federal form of government in the Philippines, enriching the citizenry's understanding of its value in a diverse and culturally rich archipelagic nation.



## CROSS-CONTINENTAL EXCHANGE ON REGIONALISM IN ITALY, PH

By: Jay Dejaresco

In a groundbreaking virtual program, a cross-continental exchange took place on April 17, 2023, between a panel of speakers on the issue of regionalism in both Italy and the Philippines.

The exchange of experience highlighted the experiences Autonomous Region of South Tyrol, Italy, and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Philippines.

The event, organized by the Eurac Institute for Comparative Federalism and the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance, provided a unique opportunity for comparative discussions.

Commencing at 9:00 am Bolzano Time (4:00 pm Manila Time) last April, the program kicked off with a welcome and introduction by Ms. Greta Klotz, researcher at the Eurac Institute for Comparative Federalism and program coordinator of the Eurac Winter School on Federalism.

The Winter School on Federalism every year in January and February, gathers noted experts in federalism and regional governments from different countries around the globe.

Following welcome ceremony, Atty. Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana, President of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance, and Mr. Henning Hillmer, Hanns Seidel Foundation Philippine Country Representative, delivered brief messages, setting the stage for the informative exchange.



Dr. Sara Parolari and Dr. Elisabeth Alber shared insights into regionalism in Italy and the specific dynamics of the Autonomous Region of South Tyrol. This presentation provided a comprehensive understanding of the governance structure and regional autonomy in the Italian context.

Prof. Melba Angni and lawyer Elmar Jay Dejaresco then took the virtual stage to present the unique features of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and, potentially, the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) in the Philippines.

The presentations delved into the historical, cultural, and political aspects shaping the autonomous regions.

The program concluded with a stimulating session of questions, discussion, and exchange, moderated by Greta Klotz. Participants engaged in a dynamic dialogue, exploring the parallels and distinctions between the autonomous regions, fostering a deeper appreciation for regional autonomy and governance.

This virtual exchange not only bridged geographical gaps but also promoted a global understanding of diverse governance models. The success of the program suggests the potential for more cross-cultural exchanges, fostering mutual learning and collaboration between regions worldwide.



Atty. Elmar Jay Martin Dejaresco and Prof. Melba Agni, attended the Winter School on Federalism and Governance, a two-week programme in Austria and in Italy.

# RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



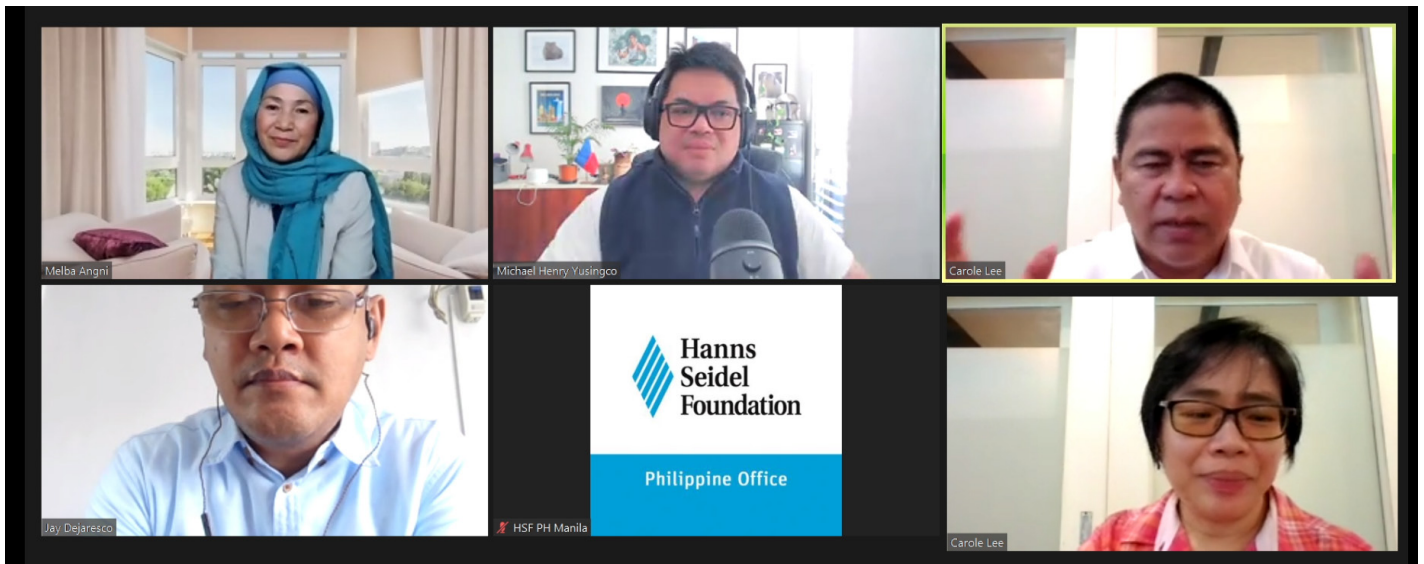
**PILG-HSF Core Group Meeting: Moving Forward with Information and Engagement , August 18, 2023, Makati City**



**MOA Signing for 2023 PILG HSF Partnership, with HSF Resident Representative Henning Hillmer, PILG President, Atty. Gwen Pimentel-Gana, Ms. Clarisse Aquino and Carole Lee.**



**HSF Mike Yap, handed over copies of 50 Shades of Federalism Publication during Federalism Seminar in Iligan City, November 22, 2023.**



**PILG-HSF Core Group Meeting: Moving Forward with Information and Engagement , September 15, 2023, Cagayan de Oro City**