

## Q & A

### **Session B:**

## ***Partnership between the EU and BIMP-EAGA/ ASEAN: Prospects, Challenges & Opportunities***

*There are many development initiatives locally in Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia. Where can the BIMP-EAGA regional grouping fit in and how can it be relevant to each country in the region?*

There are many initiatives going on in each country individually. Each country has its own development authority. There is a need for BIMP-EAGA to engage these local authorities. Among the many local authorities, the Mindanao development authority was quoted as an excellent example of a local authority making a great difference in a country that is part of the BIMP-EAGA.

Mindanao is a rich and diverse region despite of all its negative publicity. It hosts the largest, most vibrant fish port in the region and also the biggest airport in that region.

However, there is still much work to be done. There needs to be more coordination among local chamber of commerce, local development institutions and countries national development authorities.

There was a suggestion by the Philippines chamber of commerce President Professor Quintin G. Tan that his organization will redouble its efforts to concentrate on the BIMP-EAGA region. They want to create a permanent member of staff to oversee the development initiatives in the BIMP-EAGA region. They are committed to see that development comes to the BIMP-EAGA region.

*To whom should we refer to in the BIMP-EAGA for business opportunities?*

The focus should be on the local development authority in each part of the BIMP-EAGA region. It is through these local development authorities, companies can get business set-up advice. One example is the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCO). For Indonesia, businesses can refer to the regional development authority and the national chamber of commerce. These two bodies have networks to the various local area authorities. These networks can help in setting up businesses.