

## **DAY 1** EXCURSION TO COLO-ONG, VALENZUELA CITY

The afternoon session of Day 1 concluded with an excursion to a perpetually-flooded settlement in Colo-ong, Valenzuela City. Photos from top to bottom: (1) The whole delegation—composed of project team members from Germany, representatives from UP SURP, and invited stakeholders from various sectors—posing for a picture along Colo-ong settlement's main concrete pathway; (2) Representatives from the City Government of Valenzuela and members of the LIR-LAP Project Team surveying the vicinity of Colo-ong's Multi-Pupose Hall; and, (3) a view of the makeshift houses that characterize many of the houses in the settlement.







## **EXCURSION TO COLO-ONG**

The group arrived at the Colo-ong Settlement in Valenzuela City a little past 3 o'clock PM, where they were welcomed by the Del Rosa Compound Home Owners' Association (DRC-HOA) officers. First, the participants and the officers introduced themselves to the body, and which, a brief presentation was given by one of the officers on the history of Colo-ong Resettlement.

The DRH-HOA was organized in the 1960s, when the family that owned the Del Rosario Fishing Vessel Company bought the land for their workers to live in. The company, however, had to stop operations in 1965 when dynamite fishing was prohibited. The land was sold, but the workers stayed on. In the early 1990s, the DRC Neighborhood Association was formed, and eventually registered at the SEC in 1998. There were 87 structures with 106 families (around 405 individuals) living in them. The surrounding areas were described to be farmland, where rice and fruit-bearing trees were grown. It was in 1994 when floodwaters were drained from the land, and since then, the area has been perpetually flooded.



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