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German group cites Cebu projects

Cebu Daily News
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A decade after funding projects in Cebu and the rest of the Visayas, the German Development Cooperation is shifting its attention to Mindanao, German officials said last Monday.

In a press briefing at the Cebu Parklane International Hotel Ralph Timmermann, counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, said they are moving on to other areas in Mindanao.

Last Tuesday, media from Manila and Cebu were toured around their different project sites which include the Integrated Transport Terminal in partnership with the Danao City government, the FAIRBank Danao Branch, a beneficiary of their Small to Medium Enterprise financing.

Another beneficiary is Filo d'Oro, a upholstery subcontractor that supplies furniture firms like Kenenth Cobonpue's Interior Crafts of the Island.

“For the year 2009, the German government allocated 13 million euros for technical corporation, financial corporation and human resource projects. This budget is expected to cover projects until 2012,” Timmermann said.

Half of that budget will be allocated to their new project in Caraga Region, Mindanao which kicks off in January next year.

“The project will be dubbed Conflict Transformation in Caraga Region. It will be the last major project we will be doing in the country,” Timmermann said.

Timmermann said the BMZ, or the German Federal Ministry for economic cooperation and development, plans to gradually reduce assistance in the country which they considered highly developed compared to other countries they have helped.

Timmermann said their projects are more focused on environmental management-related bilateral projects.

It will also be gradually reduced together with their DTI GTZ Private Sector Promotion Program or SMEDSEP in the next

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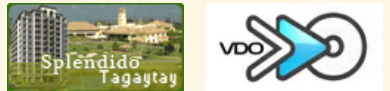
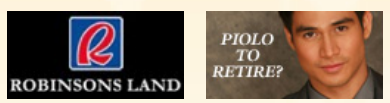
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couple of years.

“This is because we see these projects as already successful and DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) can already take it up on their own,” he said.

Timmermann said they also want the government to duplicate the success of their projects in other areas of the country.

“This is the very essence why we do bilateral agreements with every project we make,” he said.

Business Reporter Aileen Garcia-Yap

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