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Conditions for Democratic Local Politics and Governance in the Philippines

Panel: Good Governance

Good Governance has been a buzz word for more than 10 years for the development of developing nations as the Philippines, and most of the researchers majoring in those nations have criticized the politics and governance of them without trying to find out successful examples of good governance in those nations. However, there are already some successful examples of good governance in the Philippines.

Democratic legitimacy has prevailed in the mayoral election in 2 of my research sites (1 city and 1 municipality) overcoming traditional political support structure as Patron-client relationship and political machine. Those democratically elected local power showed outstanding performance in their governance. I would like to discuss, firstly, why and how such democratic local powers were able to emerge, secondly, conditions for the emergence of them, thirdly, similarities and differences between those cases, and lastly, the meanings of the emergence of such democratic local powers.