



Jesse Manalastas Robredo

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Jesse M. Robredo is a highly recognized expert in local government. He was an Edward Mason fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University where he completed his Master's Degree in Public Administration in 1999.

He is a multiawarded five-term mayor of Naga, a city of 150,000 in central Philippines. He received 14 major individual awards.

One of the city's programs is People Empowerment. It encouraged the formation of a city-level federation of local NGOs and people's organizations called the Naga City People's Council, which helps in co-governing the city. For this effort, he was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award (the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize) for government service in 2000, in recognition of the way he showed that "effective city management is compatible with yielding power to the people."

Naga's latest innovation under his leadership is the "i-Governance" program, an effort to involve individual citizens in civic affairs and public policymaking, using both ICT and non-ICT tools.

Under his leadership, the city emerged as a leading center of local governance innovations, particularly in involving citizens, local communities and other stakeholders. Naga City received more than 30 national and regional citations in diverse fields of local governance; and international awards including 2004 UN Public Service Award for Local e-Governance, 2004 UN Women Friendly City Award, Model City for Government Procurement in 2003 by World Bank and Procurement Watch, and 2002 CyberCity Awards for its *I-Governance* initiatives by UNDP.