

Joy B represents PH in Fast-Track confab in London

By Rio N. Araja

QUEZON City Mayor **Joy Belmonte** is the country's lone representative to the four-day Fast-Track Cities 2019 Conference at the Barbican Centre in London, England.

She is one of the nine city and municipal officials serving as panelists during the "High-Level Panel on Health Inequalities," which signaled the opening of the conference.

"It was a privilege to have been one of the panelists at the High-Level Discussions on Health Inequalities and talked about how to ensure we are not leaving anyone behind in providing services to our people, particularly the discriminated and stigmatized," the mayor said.

Belmonte also earned the distinction of being the only Asian mayor selected to talk on drug policy reform at the high-level session.

Organized by the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care, in collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other partners, Fast-Track Cities 2019 is the first international gathering of more than 300 cities that are accelerating their responses to human immunodeficiency virus, tuberculosis and viral hepatitis.

"I'm looking forward to this great opportunity to learn from the institutions all over the world in helping address the issue of HIV and to share our insights with the international community," the mayor said.