

Aide Memoire on

“The Challenges and Prospects of Sustainable Mining in the Philippines”

**11 October 2006, Wednesday, 1:00 pm- 5:00 pm
Assembly Hall, National College of Public Administration
University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

A. Introduction

Much has been said about sustainability in mining. Mining companies in their statements say that they are engaged in sustainable and environment friendly practices. On the other side of the spectrum, there are the disgruntled communities who in some way or another are affected— negatively, by the mining industry.

Furthermore, mining is said to increase the country’s income through mineral exports. Mining is also said to create new jobs. As the government would say, “for each mining job, four to ten allied jobs are created”. The people in the country was said to be the major beneficiaries of the Philippine mining industry.

There, however are costs. These may be in terms of environmental degradation, displacement of communities, pollution, and destruction of lives and livelihoods.

These are very difficult matters to balance. Which outweighs what? Are the benefits worth the costs? Are the costs minuscule compared to the benefits— potential or material?

B. Objectives

Generally, the forum aims to provide a venue for a continuing discourse, dialogue, dissemination of ideas, interactions and consultations with relevant publics on policy issues, reform initiatives, and recommendations of the Fostering Democratic Governance (FDG) programme.

The Philippine Governance Forum (PGF) on Sustainable Mining aims specifically to:

- Provide understanding of the concepts and complications of sustainable mining
- Analyze which factors, actors or conditions may facilitate or hinder sustainable mining
- Recommend what can be done to address the challenges of sustainable mining, and

- To make the mining industry really sustainable in the Philippines

C. Intended Outputs

At the end of the day, the forum on Sustainable Mining hopes to have helped raise the level of understanding of the relevant publics on the issues, lessons and complications of sustainable mining. The lessons that will be learned from this forum may be used to further enhance interactions between the concerned actors—the government, the people and the mining industry.

D. Programme

The programme of activities will be as follows:

TIME	ACTIVITIES
1:00 – 1:30 pm	Registration
1:30 – 2:00 pm	Film Showing
2:00 – 2: 30 pm	<p>Opening Ceremonies</p> <p>Invocation National Anthem</p> <p>Opening Remarks Dr. Alex B. Brillantes Jr. Dean, UP NCPAG</p> <p>Overview of the Philippine Governance Forum and Introduction of Speakers</p> <p>Ms. Mars Mendoza Fair Trade Alliance (FTA)</p>
3:00 – 3:20 pm	<p>Usec. Demetrio L. Ignacio Undersecretary Planning, Policy Research and Legislative Affair Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)</p>
3: 20 – 3:40 pm	<p>Engr. Rodolfo Velasco Jr. Mines and Geosciences Bureau Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)</p>

3:40– 4:00 pm	Atty. Marvic F. Leonen Executive Director Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center- Kasama sa Kalikasan Vice President, UP and Professor, UP College of Law
4:00 – 4:15 pm	Break/ Intermission
4:15 – 4:45 pm	Open Forum
4:45 – 5:00 pm	Synthesis Dr. Ma. Fe V. Mendoza Project Coordinator, PGF Professor, UP NCPAG Closing
	Master of Ceremonies/ Moderator: Dr. Ebinezer R. Florano Forum Officer, PGF Professor, UP NCPAG

E. Participants

Some 100- 250 stakeholders from the business sector, civil society organizations, government, FDG partners, academe, donor community, media, indigenous peoples, and other sectors will be invited to seriously commit themselves in this forum in order to help make mining in the Philippines sustainable.

F. Organizers

This forum on sustainable mining is organized under the GOP- UNDP Fostering Democratic Governance Programme, Philippine Governance Forum and is subscribed under the Diliman Governance Forum, by the National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines, Fair Trade Alliance (FTA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).