



GOP-UNDP PROGRAMME
FOSTERING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES - NATIONAL COLLEGE OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE (UP-NCPAG):
IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

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15th DILIMAN GOVERNANCE FORUM (DGF)

**Fifteen Years of Decentralization in the Philippines:
Lessons Learned and the Way Forward**

TERMINAL REPORT

The forum '*Fifteen Years of Decentralization in the Philippines: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward*' is the 15th installment of the Diliman Governance Forum that started in September 2004. It was conceptualized, developed and organized by the Center for Local and Regional Governance of the National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines.

The forum took place at the NCPAG Assembly Hall, UP Diliman on 19 October 2006 (Thursday), from 9:00AM to 4:00PM.

Project Objectives

As per the terms of reference, this project aimed to provide a forum to articulate and discuss the status of devolution in the country from different perspectives, and to contribute to the proposed comprehensive policy review of the Local Government Code of 1991. Specifically, it aimed to:

- present assessments on the devolved services of agriculture, health and social welfare, and how they have affected the national and local governments,
- present assessments on fiscal decentralization, local planning and local budgeting,
- elicit policy recommendations on key decentralization issues,
- incite the discourse on formally evaluating the Local Government Code of 1991, and
- disseminate the proceedings and policy recommendations that transpired from this project.

Reactions from the local governments as well as the civil society were expected, as well as an audience of 200-250 academics, policymakers, civil servants, business people and journalists.

Project Objectives (Status)

The project was successful in providing a forum to articulate and discuss the status of devolution in the country from the perspectives of the national government agencies.

Assessments on the devolved services of agriculture, health and social welfare were presented by the following resource persons:

- Hon. Nemesio T. Gako, Assistant Secretary, DOH
- Dir. Asterio P. Saliot, Agricultural Training Institute, DA
- Hon. Alicia D. Bala, Undersecretary, DSWD

Assessments on fiscal decentralization, local planning and local budgeting were delivered by the following resource persons and guest speaker:

- Dir. Eleuterio C. Dumogho, Office of Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr.
- Dir. Marivel C. Sacendoncillo, Local Government Academy, DILG
- Dir. Norberto G. Malvar, Bureau of Local Government Finance, DOF

The Department of Budget and Management was not able to send a resource person to discuss the devolved function of planning, budgeting, and programming.

The forum was also successful in providing alternative assessments of devolution through the reactions given by the following representatives of the civil society and local government:

- Prof. Leonor M. Briones, UP NCPAG
- Dr. Benjamin V. Cariño, UP SURP
- Ms. Lourdes M. Fernandez, Editor-in-Chief, Business Mirror
- Mayor Gerardo V. Calderon, Angono, Rizal
- Dr. Victoria A. Bautista, Vice Chancellor, UP Open University
- Mr. Sixto Donato C. Macasaet, Executive Director, CODE-NGO

Approximately 230 guests registered to participate in the forum. Most of them come from the national government agencies, local governments (both municipal/city and barangay levels), academe (both teachers and students), and NGOs. A few representatives from the diplomatic corps, Congress, international donor agencies and the media were also present. (See attachment for the list of guests.)

Policy recommendations on key decentralization issues were elicited, not only from resource persons, but from reactors and participants themselves. One major recommendation is the formal evaluation and amendment of the Local Government Code of 1991. (The proceedings will provide details of the policy recommendations.)

On the dissemination of the proceedings and policy recommendations that transpired from this project, the organizer is still in the process of completing the report, which includes editing, proofreading, lay-outing, and printing.

Project Output

The project output will be the publication and dissemination of forum proceedings, including the policy recommendations from the national government agencies and representatives of the local government and civil society.

Project Output (Status)

The organizer is in the process of completing the proceedings of the forum. The publication will include the proceedings of a related DGF that was conducted in October 2005: “An Assessment of Local Governments in the Philippines: Focus on the State of Decentralization and the Implementation of the Local Government Code of 1991.”

Financial Report (See attachment)

For the activities, services and outputs outlined in the project terms of reference, CLRG received, in first tranche, two hundred thousand pesos (PHP200,000) to cover the professional and operational expenses needed to successfully conduct the forum. A second tranche of fifty thousand pesos (PHP50,000) will be received upon submission of the published proceedings in order to disseminate the message of the forum.