



Australian Government

AusAID

February 9, 2012

Mr Motoo Konishi  
Country Director  
World Bank Philippines  
23<sup>rd</sup> Floor, The Taipan Place  
F Ortigas Jr Road, Ortigas Center  
Pasig City 1605

Dear Mr Konishi

**Re: Official Development Assistance- Gender and Development (ODA-GAD) Network Engagement with Philippines Development Forum Working Groups**

I am writing on behalf of the Official Development Assistance-Gender and Development (ODA-GAD) Network, of which I am the current convenor.

Since 2002 the ODA-GAD Network has operated as an informal gathering of GAD focal persons from bilateral and multilateral development agencies, and of representatives from the Philippines Commission on Women and NEDA, where members (i) share information, experiences and useful practices on gender and development; (ii) explore enhancing collaboration and complementation of ODA programs; and (iii) develop the capacities of members in applying gender equality perspectives and tools.

Over the years, Network members have collaborated on various initiatives, including the harmonization of GAD Guidelines and Checklists, and the Joint Country Gender Assessment in 2007-2008. Members also come together to advocate for consideration and action on gender issues with the Philippine Development Forum (PDF).

In this regard, we were very pleased with the reception of our Statement to the 2011 PDF, given the forum is the primary mechanism of the Philippines Government for facilitating substantive policy dialogue among stakeholders, developing consensus and generating actionable commitments. Building on this, we would like to request your support in encouraging the various PDF working and sub-working groups to ensure that the crafting and monitoring of policies are gender sensitive and responsive. Our network members are ready to provide technical assistance.

As co-convenor of the PDF we express appreciation for your continued support in promoting substantive interest, discussions and actions on addressing priority gender issues for the Philippines in accordance with the Philippines Development Plan, the Framework Plan for Women and the President's Social Contract.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Egan  
Counsellor AusAID  
and Convenor, ODA-GAD Network