

Highlights of the Meeting
PDF Working Group on Sustainable Rural Development
February 1, 2007
GTZ-Manila Office Conference Room

Attendance:

Donors' Group		Government	
Mr. Peter Keller	GTZ	Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano	DA
Mr. Arcadio Cruz	FAO	Executive Director Nelson Genito	DAR
Ms. Emily Mercado	EC	Ms. Cynthia Cardenas	DAR
Mr. Jesus Molina	AECI	Ms. Jaydda Mayoralgo	DA
Mr. Jesus Quintana	AECI	Ms. Isabelita Austria	DENR
Mr. Axel Hebel	ADB	Mr. E.T. Gibas	DENR
Ms. Rosa Antes	Ausaid		
Ms. Reyna Reyes	AusAid	Guests/Resource Persons	
Ms. Patricia G. Domingo	AusAid	Mayor Givel Montejo-Mamaril	LGU- Malalag, Davao Sur
Ms. Mayumi Amaike	JICA	Ms. Dolores Nuevas	UDP
Ms. Carolina Geron	WB	Ms. Li-Ann de Leon	LMP
Mr. Felizardo Virtucio, Jr.	WB		

Agenda/ Highlights of Discussion

- 1.0 The Meeting was called to order by Mr. Peter Keller at 4:35 p.m. Mr. Keller presented the agenda for the meeting (Attachment 1).
- 2.0 Mr. Keller explained that the agenda is basically divided into two parts – the first three items (Updates on CARP/Post-LAD Scenarios, Rehabilitation Assistance and EU/UDP model on Sustainable Upland Development) are topics presented for information and the second half , involves the preparation for the 2007 PDF.
- 3.0 **Updates on CARP/Post-LAD Scenarios** (by Peter Keller)
 - 3.1 The study on Post-LAD Scenarios was undertaken in view of the 2008 deadline for completing land acquisition and distribution under the CARP. With support from GTZ , the study was completed in April 2006 and the results were presented in a conference participated by CARP's stakeholders from government, non-government organizations and private sector. The study outlined strategic options for accelerating land acquisition and distribution, sustaining the gains of CARP and institutional options for DAR as lead CARP implementing agency. To date, DAR has submitted a matrix of their current and planned initiatives along the recommendations provided by the study and a list of priority areas for possible ODA support. The list however was not prioritized.

- 3.2 In late 2006, a Donors' Forum on CARP was planned but was deferred. According to Dir. Genito, this initiative will no longer be pursued this year in view of certain prohibitions that go with the election period. He also informed the body that DAR is seeking the extension of the CARL and commits itself to finish all land where Notices of Coverage have been issued.
- 3.3 In general, the donors expressed interest in the topic and suggested for DAR to identify the options it will take up and prepare a priority list for donor assistance. A separate meeting can be organized for a deeper discussion.
- 3.4 There was also a consideration for CARP as a topic to be taken up in the PDF.

4.0 *Rehabilitation Assistance for Areas Severely Damaged by Typhoons*

- 4.1 The topic was introduced by Mr. Cruz (FAO) and Mr. Quintana (AECI) considering that the agriculture sector was severely damaged by the last three typhoons. The UN System was asked to prepare the rehabilitation plan for Regions 4B, 5, 6 and 8. A Mission is now on board and expected to complete the plan in three weeks for submission to DA.
- 4.2 Mr. Cruz expressed that rehabilitation is a good opportunity for donor convergence of efforts. In particular, he cited that for the Bicol Region, rehabilitation will focus on agri-business and livelihood. There was an initial support of USD100 thousand but was concentrated in Albay for seeds, fertilizer, animals, among others. AECI has also extended assistance to Bicol and some more support can be requested from Madrid. AusAid have likewise extended support to the relief and rehabilitation efforts. Mr. Cruz also invited interested donors to the first formal Meeting of the Agriculture Cluster on February 5 at FAO.
- 4.3 With numerous donors participating in the rehabilitation efforts, Usec. Serrano considered rehabilitation as a topic for PDF, to report what has been done and what more will be needed.
- 4.4 Referring to the 2006 Policy Note on Sustainable Rural Development, Ms. Mercado also informed the body that disaster preparedness can be linked with rehabilitation if it will be decided to take up in the 2007 PDF.
- 4.5 On the WG on Sustainable Rural Development to take up the topic to the PDF, Mr. Hebel asked whether there is a WG on Cross-cutting Issues or a WG to look at disaster preparedness. Mr. Keller promised to take this up with the Donors Group meeting.

5.0 EU/Sustainable Upland Development Model

- 5.1 Mayor Mamaril from Malalag, Davao Sur presented their experience in developing a sustainable upland development model where convergence of agencies played an important role and the LGUs being at the driving seat. Usec Serrano emphasized the message in this experience as *LGUs can take over their lives and government should do its job of supporting them.*
- 5.2 In order to promote the replication of the model, a draft Executive Order entitled *Pursuing Sustainable Upland Development Anchoring on Food,*

Wood and Non-wood Security and Economic Productivity... was presented, for which support from the WG is being requested.

5.3 The WG accepted the draft and will further study the draft EO.

6.0 Preparations for the 2007 PDF

6.1 Updates/Accomplishment

6.1.1 On ***Convergence*** – Ms. Mayoralgo and Ms. Cardenas (both of the Convergence TWG) reported that all Provincial-level Convergence Teams have been established. Proposals have been developed and MOAs with Chinese investors are in progress for agribusiness investments, assistance to farmers, development of 1 million hectares of agribusiness lands for hybrid rice, corn, cassava, sugarcane and jatropha. ARCs are considered as pilot areas, however, no specific areas have been identified yet. The Convergence TWG will submit a report on this.

6.1.2 On ***Strengthening Decentralization and the Role of LGUs*** – Ms. Geron reminded the body of the commitment of DA, DAR and DENR in the 2006 PDF - that they will commit to a time-bound transition plan towards decentralization. Usec Serrano expressed high hopes for the government's rationalization. DA's rationalization plan has already been completed in compliance with the EO, however, it was halted due to change in DA leadership and have to be reviewed by the new Secretary. The case of the Mindanao Rural Development Project (MRDP) would be a good approach DA would implement to strengthen decentralization. Ms. Geron further suggested for DA, DAR and DENR to share experiences on decentralization, either in specific projects or program approach.

6.1.3 On ***Funding Support*** – While funding support to the sector is very important, Usec Serrano expressed that the greater challenge would be how to harmonize resource allocation in the sector (DA< DAR, DENR and the LGUs).

6.2 Important Topics for the 2007 PDF Agenda

6.2.1 Strengthening Decentralization, to include the promotion of sector-wide rationalization

6.2.2 Public expenditure Management for more coherence and transparency

6.2.3 Strengthening Convergence

6.3 New topics/ issues for 2007 PDF under consideration by the WG include CARP/ Post-LAD scenarios and options as well as the possible inclusion of

issues such as disaster preparedness, mitigation and preventive measures under the convergence approach.

6.4 The members of the WG are requested to recommend Other Stakeholders to be invited to the PDF by Feb. 2 (for DOF's consideration)

7.0 The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on 13 February 2007 (3 o'clock in the afternoon) at the GTZ Manila Office Conference Room.

Prepared by:

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