

2011 PHILIPPINES DEVELOPMENT FORUM STATEMENT BY NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand has been a development partner of the Philippines for nearly 50 years and continues to contribute in niche areas, especially where New Zealand has particular expertise.

The New Zealand Aid Programme has been reintegrated into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is no longer delivered by the semi-autonomous body the New Zealand Agency for International Development. Decisions are consequently pending on a new programme structure for New Zealand's aid in the ASEAN region. The new directions that this will provide will apply to the Philippines later this year.

New Zealand has entered into a new Joint Comprehensive Partnership with ASEAN, and aims to increase the impact of its aid commitments in the region through a more strategic, sustainable and regionally-focussed delivery of its aid programmes.

New Zealand has established four flagship initiatives for ASEAN: disaster risk management, agricultural diplomacy, a scholarship programme and a young business leaders' Initiative. In the Philippines the rollout of these flagships is progressing well, in particular through an increase in scholarships to 18 annually) and in agricultural diplomacy.

New Zealand's future agricultural development work in the Philippines will involve support to the dairy sector, which began last year with a strategic review of the sector. The design of a three-year programme of New Zealand assistance will soon be finalised.

New Zealand will also increase its contribution to disaster risk management in the region. Work is underway to confirm New Zealand's support for the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) Centre and the priorities listed under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). We have in the past responded positively to Philippine natural disaster appeals (such as after tropical storm Ondoy in 2009) and humanitarian needs in Mindanao. We look forward to co-operating with the Philippines in its role in the implementation of the AADMER.

New Zealand also has other commitments in the Philippines such as the Camiguin coastal resources management project, development scholarships, indigenous people's empowerment and UNDP's ACT for Peace projects. These continue to make a strategic contribution under the existing Philippine country strategy and the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan.

New Zealand's current ODA commitment to the Philippines for the 2010–2011 financial year is NZ\$4.3 million. We plan to contribute to two initiatives to be delivered through the United Nations system this year. One is for the Humanitarian Action Plan through FAO's project to restore livelihoods in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao, and the other UNDP's work relating to disaster risk and climate change adaptation. Both these projects align well with New Zealand's development priorities for the ASEAN region.

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