

Updates on AusAID Programs related to Local Governance
16 January 2006

A. Local Governance Development Program (LGDP)

Proposed Design

Goal: To improve delivery of basic services by local government units to enhance local development

Purpose: To strengthen and improve the effectiveness of LGU governance structures and systems.

Objectives:

- a) Assist the institutional development of selected active local area development partnerships;
- b) Support the reform of national policies relating to LGU operations;
- c) Promote coordination of donor assistance for LGUs.

Components

- 1. Strengthen institutional capacity and development of pilot LADPs to identify and address critical constraints
- 2. Policy development and reform to assist LADP implementation
- 3. Support donor coordination to improve LADP implementation
- 4. Program Management and Development

The LGDP has been designed to be a phased long-term development program that will run for up to ten (10) years. Phase 1 (approximately one year) will be a learning and development phase focused on strengthening the partnership structures of selected local area development partnerships so that LGU systems start working better to support implementation of subsequent programs. LGDP Phase 1 is expected to be mobilised by March/April 2006.

B. Philippines-Australia Human Resource Development Facility (PAHRDF)

The Facility is still supporting the provinces of Bohol, Northern Samar, Misamis Occidental, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Norte on their HR needs. These provinces have been supported by HRDF in formulating/updating their HR plans and were provided training (both short-term and long-term/scholarships) on various disciplines such as HRD, performance monitoring, rural development, local planning, and financial management, among others. A review of the Facility's accomplishments and processes will be undertaken in March 2006.

C. Philippines Australia Local Sustainability (PALS) Project

PALS supports the Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental by strengthening broad community and local government unit partnerships and participatory processes in resource planning and management for the promotion of sustainable community livelihoods.

In September 2005, PALS brought to Australia key LGU staff, PALS staff and key Program stakeholders for a study tour. A significant outcome of the study tour was that the participants gained a better understanding how planning, governance, sustainable resource management and sustainable development are being managed in the Victorian Government context. It is expected that the local officials and PALS' stakeholders will be able to use these insights to influence and stimulate good governance, participatory planning, effective and efficient use of resources for sustainable livelihoods and development of Misamis Occidental.

Recently PALS completed participatory planning, organizational reviews and TNAs with the Provincial and Municipal Local Governments of the Municipalities in Mis Occ that are involved in PALS implementation. These reviews have provided a comprehensive, in-depth analysis of the capacity and capability requirements of the LGU partners to achieve their mandated functions. The assessments included: an inventory of resources; an assessment of strengths and weaknesses; an

assessment of needs; an analysis of stakeholders' interests; and determination of priorities for the preparation of the LGU comprehensive plans. A training program will be developed to address needs identified through these assessments. The training program will be assessed periodically to determine its effectiveness. The outputs of the review will also feed into PAHRDF scoping.

D. Philippines Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP)

PACAP has two funding schemes, namely, the focal community assistance scheme (FOCAS) and the responsive activity scheme (RAS). FOCAS interventions are a set of interrelated projects bound by a geographic area (5 provinces mentioned above) and/or a specific theme/issue. On the other hand, stand-alone, independent projects are supported under RAS.

FOCAS projects usually run for approximately 3 years and could cost PhP 1 M/year while RAS projects may last for a maximum of 18 months with a cost ceiling of PhP 1.5 M for the entire project. RAS projects are for NGOs only.

Examples of projects that can be undertaken under PACAP include

- (a) agricultural development
- (b) income and employment generation
- (c) sustaining environment and natural resources
- (d) water and sanitation
- (e) primary health care and other community health services
- (f) functional/non-formal education
- (g) assistance to prevent violence against women and children, child labor, etc
- (h) microenterprise
- (i) assistance to IPs
- (j) rural and urban poor development

E. Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD)

AYADs will be placed in the MIDC Secretariat and in the City Government of Tagbilaran (Bohol).

MIDC	-	Urban Planner
Tagbilaran	-	Hydrogeologist for the groundwater survey

F. Partnership for Economic Governance Reforms (PEGR)

The Facility is currently exploring the possibility of providing assistance in fiscal management of selected LGUs/cities. On-going discussions with DILG and ADB.