

**Working Group on Governance and Anticorruption
Meeting of January 30, 2007**

The meeting was organized to get an update on the progress made by the government in anticorruption and governance, and to discuss the preparations for the upcoming PDF on 8-9 March 2007 in Cebu.

Intensifying the Momentum in Anticorruption - Hon. Tanodbayan, Merceditas Gutierrez, Office of the Ombudsman

- The presentation covered updates for 2006 in the areas of investigation, prosecution and continuous trials of corruption cases; corruption prevention; and anticorruption education. It also included the challenges and responses of OMB in the medium term. OMB sees 4 overriding tasks to intensify the momentum in anticorruption: (i) enforcement of the law; (ii) the fast-tracking of anticorruption activities; (iii) convergence of the anticorruption actions; and (iv) the monitoring and evaluation do that the anticorruption activities produce tangible results
- After the presentation, the following issues were raised during the questions and answers session. The Congress approved P900 million budget for 2007 for the OMB, an increase from P600 million last year. Providing OMB with sufficient means to expand this year's activities
- In order to improve the perception rating of the business community, OMB is considering the establishment of an investors' help desk to look after concerns related to trade
- Greater transparency in operations would help in getting support from the public, a number of initiatives are useful in this perspective, such as the Integrity Development Review by OMB and process mapping within agencies, addressing systemic causes of corruption; these results need also to be monitored and evaluated; results should be made publicly available

Good Governance and Management Reforms - Director Amelita Castillo, Department of Budget and Management

Updates on Procurement Reform and the CPAR: The Philippine Experience – Ms. Sygrid Promentilla, Government Procurement Policy Board-Technical Support Office

- DBM reported before the group their accomplishments in the implementation of good governance reforms like: improving public expenditure management; strengthening performance management; and improving public sector delivery. DBM also listed the activities it has planned for 2007 to move forward, such as the further refinement of the public expenditure management system, including the continued design of an Integrated Financial Management Information System; the integration of Performance Management System in all departments of the executive branch; the pursuance of the passage of the Government Compensation and Classification Bill and the completion of the Rationalization program
- GPPB-TSO reported on the progress made in the Philippine Procurement Reform and on the 2006 assessment of the procurement system using the OECD-DAC indicators. In 2007, capacity building will need to be continued, as well as the strengthening of the implementation of the procurement reform and the development and implementation of a communication plan
- After the presentations, the following issues were raised during the questions and answers session. The rationalization program is being implemented in the departments of the

executive branch. Some agencies, such as Bureau of Customs has not yet implemented the recommendations under the rationalization program. The rationalization program is not compulsory for LGUs, but they can use the rationalization program on a voluntary basis.

- The awareness of the new procurement law is still low. OMB is addressing this by providing training for local government officials on the procurement law, ethics and accountability, etc. Additional efforts are needed to ensure transparency and to produce information in a consistent way. Development indicators could allow to monitor progress, in this perspective the OECD-DAC indicators are a useful tool.

Working Group Secretariat

- Since early 2007, the Working Group has its own secretariat in the person of Heidi Mendoza, governance and anticorruption consultant

Preparation of PDF, 8-9 March Cebu

- Each working group is allowed to invite a number of 'other stakeholders' for the PDF, members are invited to send in names of candidates
- The working group is asked to prepare 2-3 themes for the PDF. DBM proposes two themes based on public expenditure and aid effectiveness, and on a communication plan for procurement reform. OMB will still be consulted on an anticorruption theme
- Another preparatory meeting before the PDF will be organized. It might be a small group meeting to fix the last details

Philippine Development Forum: 30 January 2007 – list of participants

Name		Organization
Ahmed	Jaseem	ADB
Alvarez	Ruby	Department of Budget & Management
Baliton	Evelyn	Office of the Ombudsman
Bakshian	Nicole-Bintner	ADB
Bird	Kelly	ADB
Buenaobra	Maribel	Asia Foundation
Buensalida	Racquel	Civil Service Commission
Camon	Cecilia	Commission on Audit
Carroll	Tom	Embassy of Canada
Casimiro	Orlando	Office of the Ombudsman
Castillo	Amelita	Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
Chua	Ronald	Office of the Ombudsman
Cleveland	Charles	Embassy of the United States
Cox	Phyllis	Millennium Challenge Account
Drapete	Clotilde	Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
Forbes	John	ADB
Gavino	Carlos	USAID
Gutierrez	Mercedita	Office of the Ombudsman
Hipolito	Rafael	Office of the Ombudsman
Ikeda	Satoshi	Embassy of Japan
Lopez	Rawnsie	Office of the Ombudsman
Jalandoni	Mark	Office of the Ombudsman
Janda	Gerald	Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
Johnson	Ky	Asia Foundation
Khan	Rizwan Bachir	ADB
Klauth	Cristine	Embassy of Germany
Matsuda	Yusuhiko	World Bank
Mendoza	Heidi	AusAID/ADB
Mercado	Emile	Delegation of the European Commission in the Phils.
Molina	Jesus	AECI
Montero-Geronimo	Erika	AusAID
Naka	Kyo	UNDP
Navarro	Jennifer	UNDP
Nuñez	Paula	Office of the Ombudsman
Patrana-Gutierrez	Eva	Delegation of the European Commission in the Phils.
Petralia	Louisa	AusAID
Picon	Pablo	Spanish Commercial Office
Promentilla	Sygrid	DBM/GPPB-TSO
Ruiz	Pia Zobel	GPPB-TSO

Name		Organization
Siewjuan	Aw	ADB
Sundblad	Emma	Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Van der Auwera	Michiel	ADB
Wuertz	Robert	USAID
Ycasiano	Patricia	Office of the Ombudsman
Zobel-Ruiz	Pia	Department of Budget and Management (DBM)