



Center for Governance

(Center)

[2015] PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

I. Project Information

Project Code	CLRXI
Project Title	Third Structured Learning Visit of Lao Government Partners to the Republic of the Philippines on Decentralization, Regional Planning, and Territorial Management
Project Start	2015-06-26
Project End	2015-09-30
Project Price	2,260,220.00
Client Organization	GIZ

II. Project Team

Project Manager	ASHLEY MAY ALISON M. MONSANTO
Team Member	JENNY O. DARISH MA. NARCIELYN P. RIZAL ELVIRA D. PACRIS CLESA V. CORONA

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Consultants/ Resource Persons	DR. J. PROSPERO E. DE VERA DR. JULIE CATHERINE D. PARAN DIR. LEONARDO C. REYNOSO ENGR. ALAN GATPOLINTAN DIR. MARCIA CZARINA CORAZON MEDINA-GUCE DR. EDMUNDO REYES VILLA DIR. JOHAN DADA DELA ROSA MS. MA. JOSEFINA J. FAULAN

III. Project Details

Project Description

The enactment of the Local Government Code of 1991 (LGC) became the overall framework for strengthening local autonomy and accountability among local governments in the Philippines. This gave way for the introduction of a new government system at the height of the 1986 People Power revolution and pushed for decentralization of governance in the country.

More than twenty years after the passage of the landmark legislation, the delineation of responsibilities between the national and local governments has laid the foundation for improved service delivery, increased revenue mobilization powers, and provided for a more participative civil society in local governance.

It is in the same context that the Lao Government has embarked on a decentralization program that aims to strengthen local government and administration. In the current setting however, Lao PDR's initiatives have been relatively short and still evolving, hence, there is a strong need for capacity development among local authorities.

One of the attempts undertaken by the Lao Government was the introduction of the "Samsang" or "Three-Builds policy where the provinces are considered as strategic units while district authorities are called the comprehensively strengthened units. The said initiative devolved some of the important responsibilities such as development planning, investment promotions, public funds allocation and managing public service delivery.



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In support of the Samsang policy, a series of Learning Visits for the Lao Government were conducted in the Philippines. The first learning visit put emphasis on decentralization, local governance, local development planning, and land use planning while the second was more focused on local economic development.

As a continuation of the above-mentioned initiatives, the Lao Government's Northern Uplands Development Programme (NUDP), through the Integrated Rural Development Poverty Regions of Laos (GIZ NUIRDLP) requested the assistance of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) to design a customized program that would strengthen the ability of local government officials in delivering effective services to their constituents. The undertaking was implemented in the context of decentralization and comprehensive overview of the basics of local governance, coordination between and among government agencies and non-state actors, as well as good practices specific to local governance in Philippines.

Project Objective

The learning visit program is designed to achieve the following:

1. Deepen and broaden the understanding and appreciation of Lao Officials on the conceptual, legal, and institutional framework of decentralization in the Philippines.
2. Discuss coordination concepts, mechanisms, and practices between and amongst government agencies, local authorities, and non-state actors such as in development planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of programs or projects.
3. Gain significant lessons from the Philippine experience on decentralization initiatives as demonstrated through good local government practices.

Focus Area
Project Type
Project Beneficiary
Regional Coverage

Governance and Democratic Reform
Advisory and Consultancy Services
Planning, Programming, Finance and Budgeting
International

IV. Project Accomplishments

Key Activities Implemented

1. Learning Visit Programme

Major Outputs

1. Study Learning Visits (Manila, Cebu, Bohol, and Tagaytay)
2. Interim Report
3. Final Report
4. Financial Report

Project Impact

Based on the evaluation of the participants during the closing program, the learning visit program was able to provide a comprehensive review of decentralization system in the Philippines, mainly through the help of extremely knowledgeable resource persons. There were also useful and facilitative methodologies utilized that the participants could apply in their country.



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Lessons Learned

The project team recommends a number of measures to further improve the delivery of the program and sustain the learning of the participants. These were gathered both from the participants' evaluation and project team's assessment.

The following are some areas for improvement and considerations for the conduct of the next study learning visit program:

1. There are traffic and other possible concerns / delays in the study visit areas that are beyond the control of the DAP team but should have been considered in planning the activities.
2. The participants expected workshop activities but these are not within the scope of the session. The resource persons were only tasked to provide presentation and respond to the participants' feedback.
3. The design of the learning program should consider the participants' communication skills and their absorptive capacity. There are certain lectures and open forum, though, which may cover topics that are too technical and that translating them might give them the correct or complete message. More so, translations after each lecture can be tedious and time-consuming.
4. Weather condition in the Philippines has become unpredictable and can later on affect the arrangements and the outcome of the learning visit.
5. Government policy in procurement is a major consideration in selecting a venue and in accommodating certain changes or adjustments in the client specifications. This should be clarified with the client at the start of the negotiations

V. Attachments

- Summary of Evaluation for Course and Resource Person (for learning program)
- Certificate of Project Closure (for all completed projects)

Prepared by:

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Project Manager

Noted / Approved by:

Imelda C. Caluen
Center Head

Notes:

1. Project details on Section I-III can be generated thru PMIS based on PMs inputs.
2. Project Managers are required to accomplish Section IV & provide Section V to reflect results of project implementation
3. Project Managers can update/adjust the pre-filled sections(I-III) based on actual data