

Lessons from 50 Years of Building Sustainable
Rural Communities

and

Suggestions to Filipino Migrants who wish to
Contribute to Philippine Development



Conrado "Ding" Navarro

President & Chief Executive Officer

Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement

1952 - 2007



Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement



Dr. Y.C. JAMES YEN
1893-1990

CHINESE MASS EDUCATION MOVEMENT

1923 - 1949

*“The peasants do not lack brains,
only opportunities.”*

TING HSIEN (DING XIAN) EXPERIMENT

*“A social laboratory where we discovered the
interlocking problems of the peasants:
illiteracy, poverty, disease and civic inertia.”*

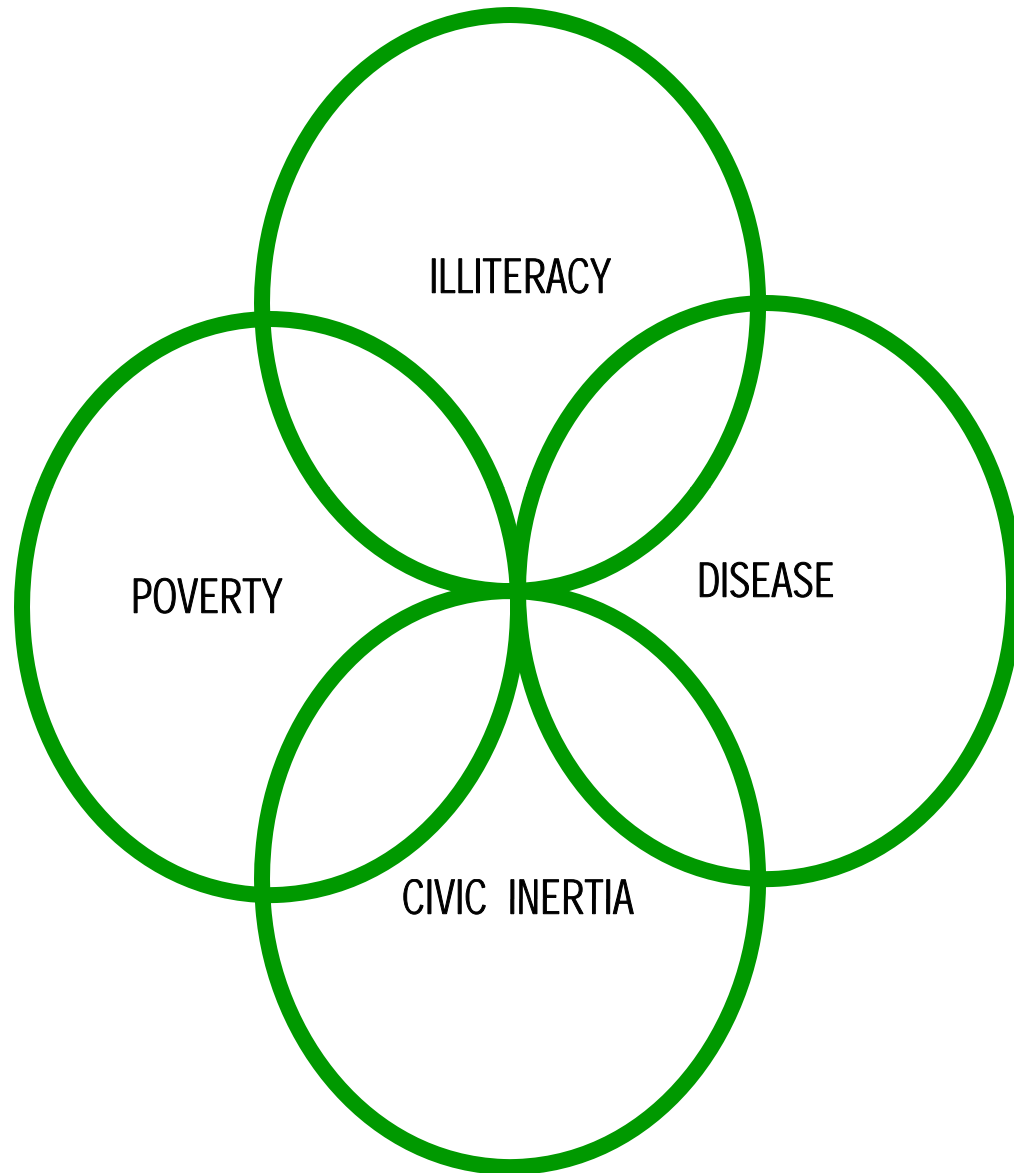
FOUR-FOLD PROGRAM

EDUCATION to combat ILLITERACY

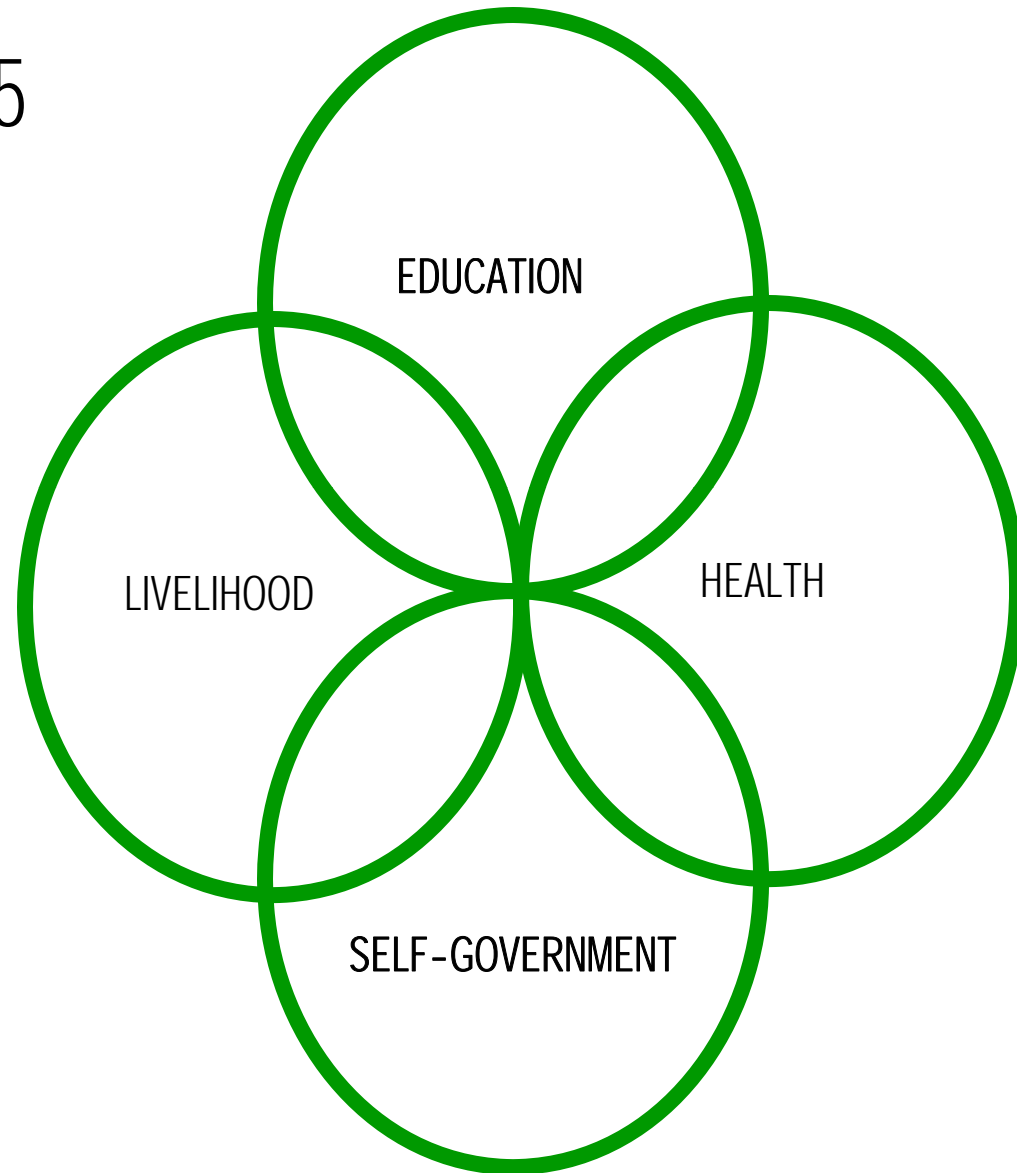
LIVELIHOOD to fight POVERTY

HEALTH to ward off DISEASE

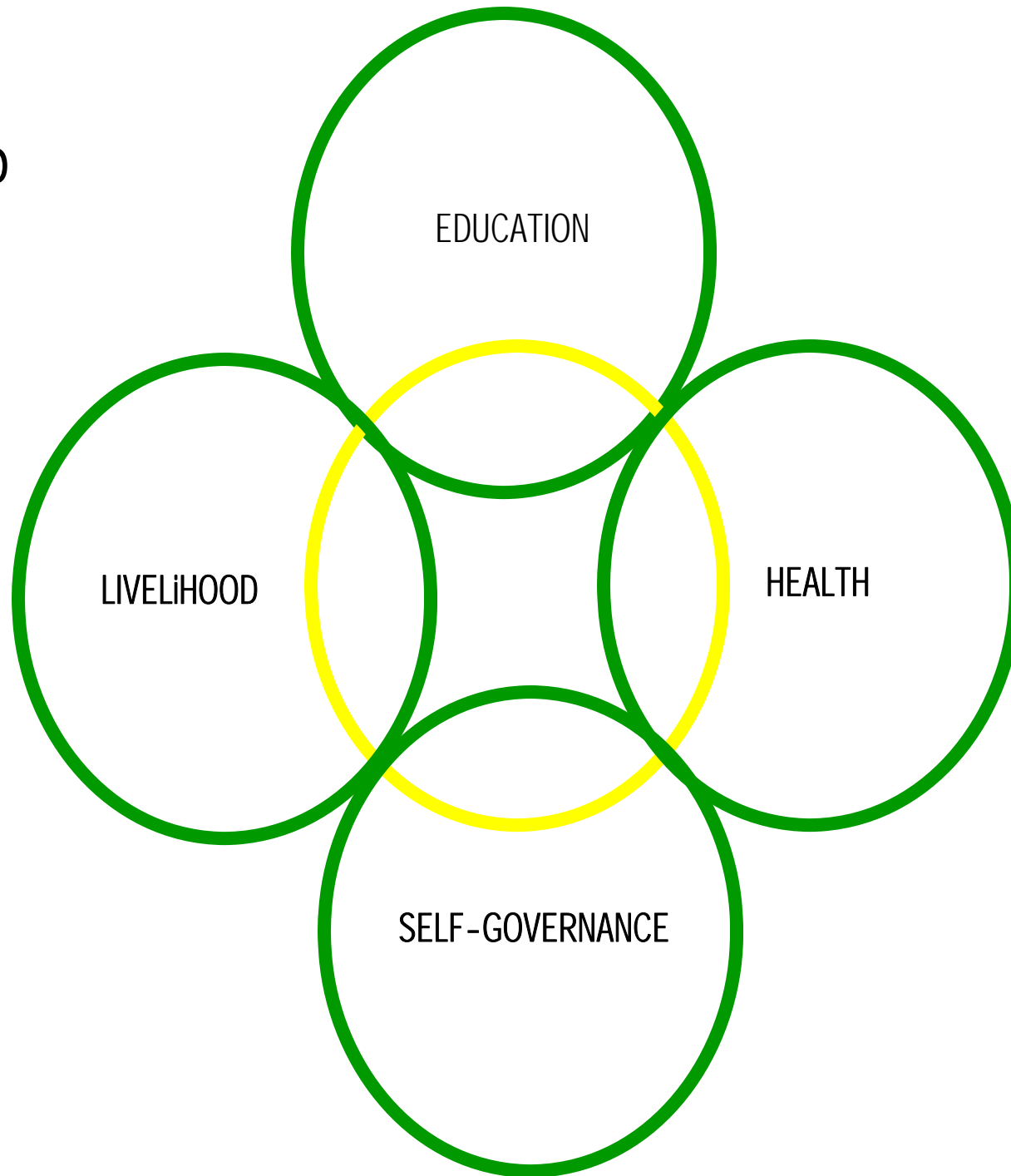
SELF-GOVERNMENT to address CIVIC INERTIA



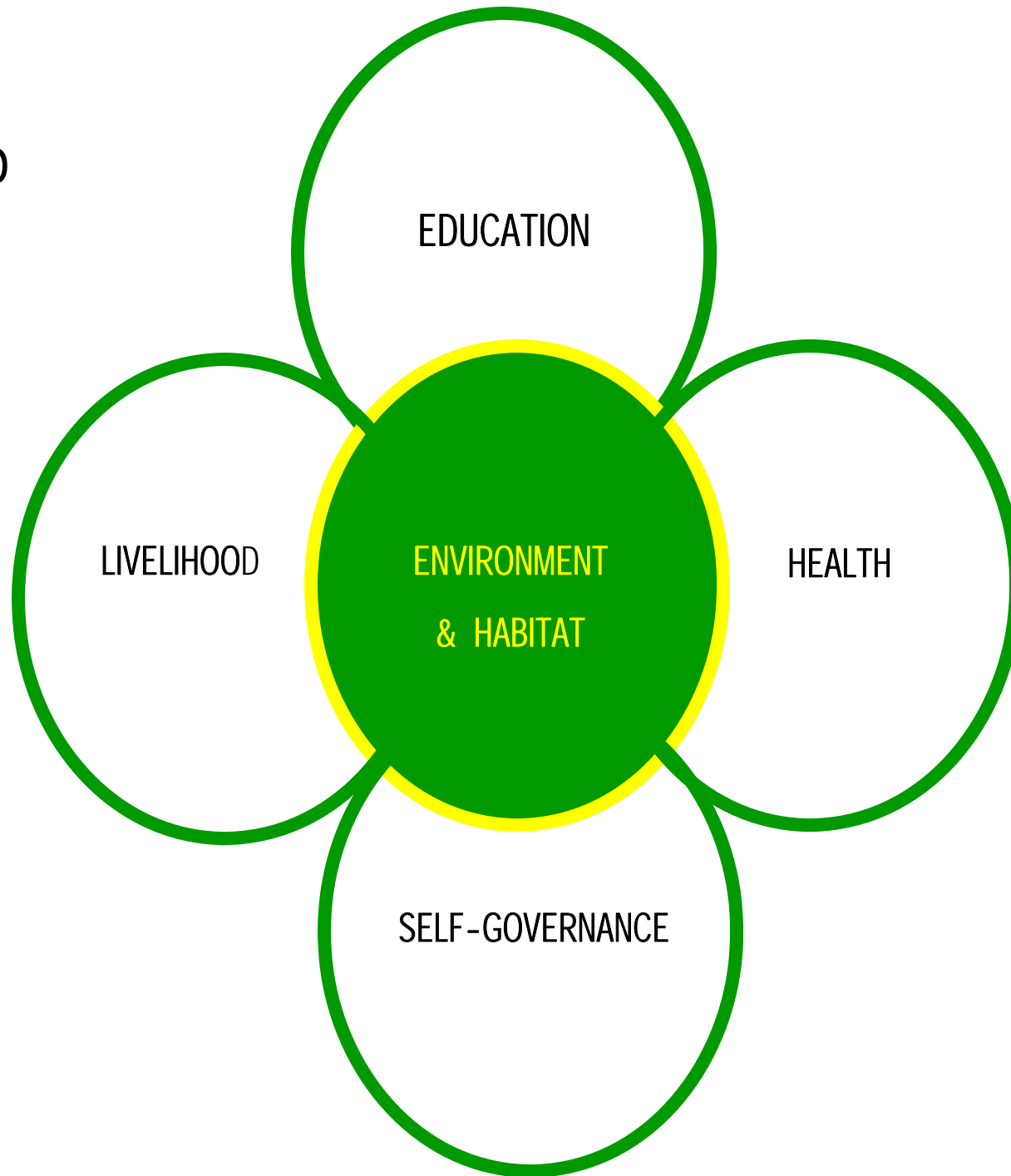
1952-1985



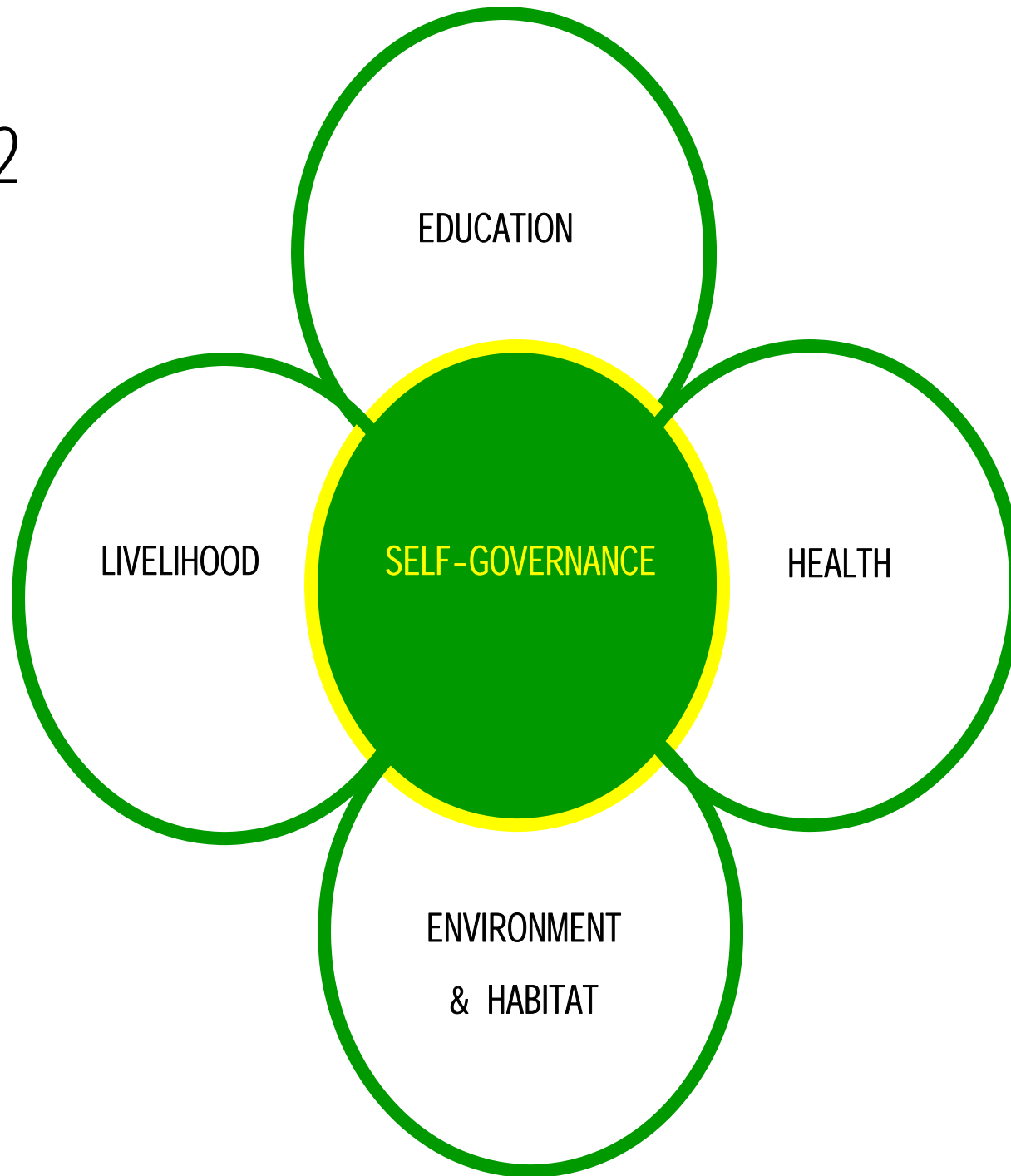
1986



1986



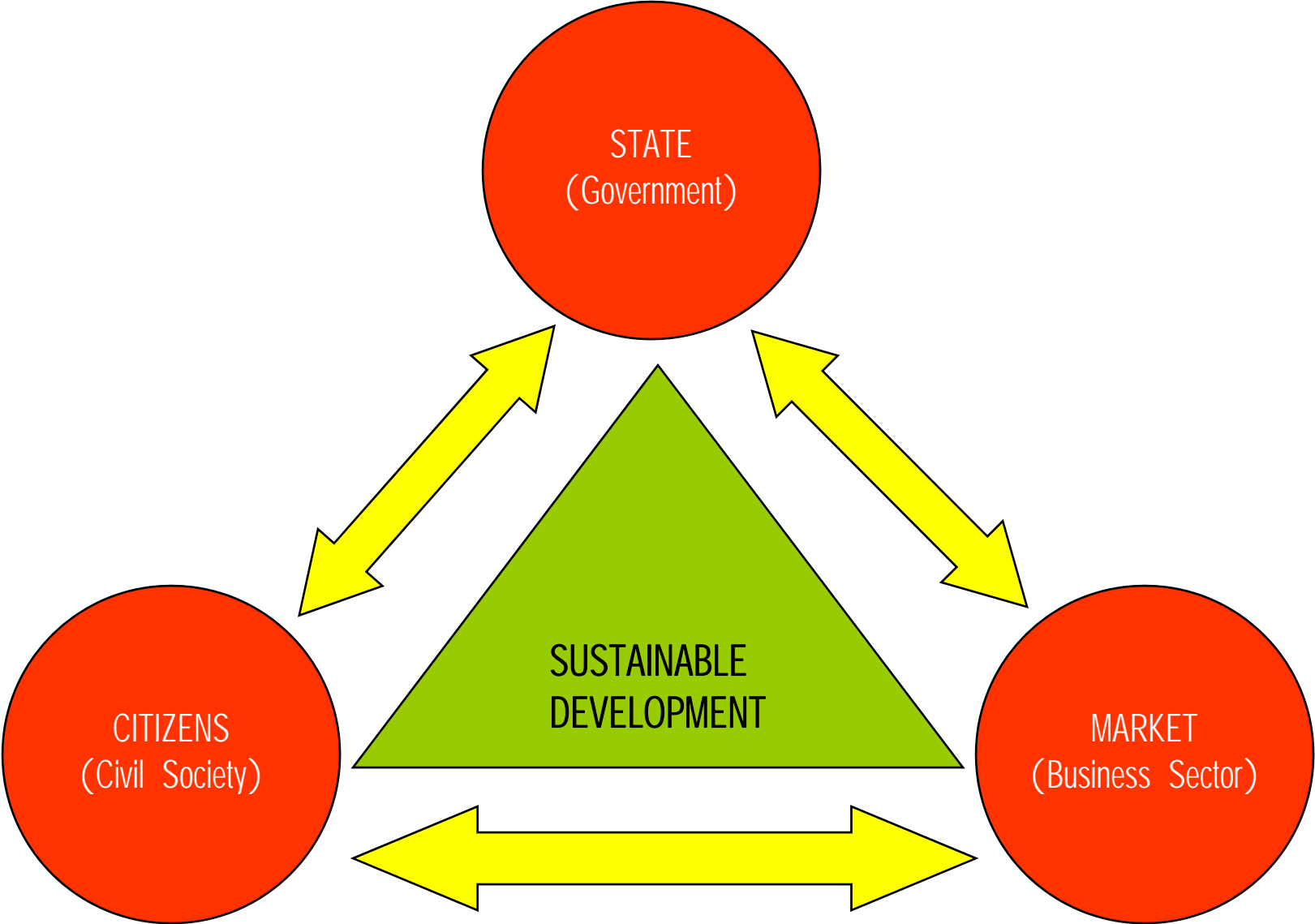
2002



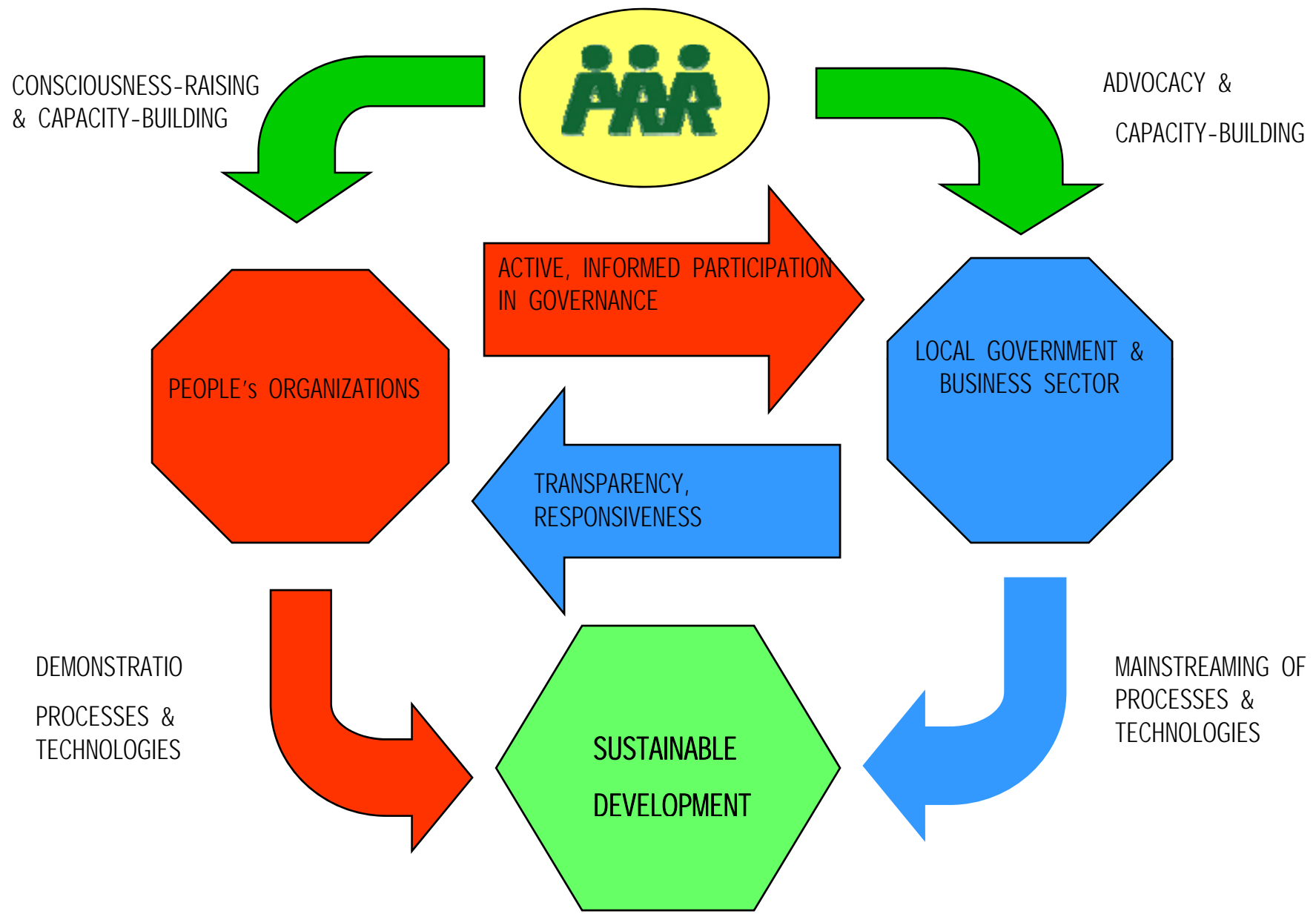
SELF – GOVERNANCE =

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION in
GOVERNANCE & DECISION-MAKING

The TRIADIC DEVELOPMENT Paradigm



GOOD GOVERNANCE for SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



? So what do all these mean for our Filipino migrants?

? More specifically, what do these mean for diaspora philanthropy?

Usual donations from our Filipino migrants

- **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

- Scholarships
- Books, school supplies
- School buildings, furniture, equipment (e.g., computers)

- **HEALTH ASSISTANCE**

- Medical & dental missions
- Medicines & medical appliances (e.g., wheelchairs, crutches, prosthesis, etc.)
- Potable water systems, barangay health stations

? What else, aside from these, can our migrant brethren contribute to the development of their families, their communities, and the country as a whole?

Let's listen to one migrant:
OPHEL BELO

Ophel Belo is the valedictorian for 2007 at the recently concluded graduation ceremonies of the Filipino Workers' Resource Center - Skills Training Program (FWRC-STP) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

She has been described as quiet but efficient, unassuming yet smart. She works as a domestic helper in Kuala Lumpur.

In her valedictory address, Ophel had a lot to say about the sad state our country is in.

"And so today, ladies and gentlemen, what are we going to do to create a meaningful difference in the future of our country? Evil triumphs because good men do nothing. Let us all do something, no matter how small.

“FIRST, let us not remit everything that we earn here. Let us save at least 50% through the Samahang Impok Bayan and keep it until we go home for good.

“SECOND, let us all take courses in the FWRC that will help us in our reintegration like

Business Management, Entrepreneurship
Accounting, Basic Laws
and other relevant courses.

"THIRD, let us all write to our congressmen, let us write to our newspaper, let us e-mail our opinions and let us be active in denouncing the abuses of our political leaders.

“FOURTH, let us rally behind honest and hardworking officials and staff in government but let us denounce and expose and charge all those who violate their oaths as public servants.

"FIFTH, let us help in the FWRC. Whatever honor we receive today should provide us an inspiration to share our knowledge to other OFWs.

“SIXTH, let us discipline our families at home. They should learn to value our remittances and not squander them in luxuries. Let us let them learn that we worked hard for the money and we should not tolerate extravagances.

“SEVENTH, let us all be aware of all the economic, social and political developments in our country. Let us monitor what are the trends and programs of our country's future. And let us share our thoughts with those who spend our remittances.

“AND lastly number EIGHT, let us all be aware that all that were, all that are and all that will be in the Philippines are driven by economic realities, high population growth, labor excess economy, cheap labor, globalization without safety nets, insufficient social services. All these are exacerbating the pains and sufferings of our people.”

“Kaya mga kababayan, dapat umpisahan na ang pagbabago, umpisahan sa ating sarili. Kung hindi ngayon, kaylan pa? Kung hindi tayo ang mag-umpisa, sino pa?”

Bahala tayo sa ating kinabukasan at bahala tayo sa kinabukasan ng ating bansa

Pakaisipin ninyo ito. Huwag kayong masyadong magsaya. Dapat magkaroon din kayo ng lungkot, upang magsikap kayong magbago. Dahil ang mga problema ay hindi nakakatuwa.

Marami pong salamat.”

THANK YOU!