

# *MIGRANT ASSOCIATION and PHILIPPINE INSTITUTION for DEVELOPMENT/AENEAS PROGRAMME*

Regions 10, 11, 12  
Mindanao

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# *Maria Goes to the Market Project*

- Establishment of market infrastructure
- Women empowerment
- Trainings for women members on Entrepreneurship



# Factors that supported the project

- Strong collaboration and partnership of the Overseas Filipinos, Local Government and Local Peoples Organization
- Role of women in the whole implementation of the project.
- Comprehensive approach in addressing the economic prospects of the community
- Strong social preparation achieved through the collaboration between the local and the overseas organizations.
- “Bottom-up approach”.



# Problems the project encountered

- Resistance from the male group
- Intervention of local politicians
- Leveling-off between Local Technical Consultants and Community

# Local institution's/partner's contributions

- LGU provided land for the infrastructure
- Facilitating various needs of the community



# Sustainability

- Community members' contribution for organizational fund
- Increasing agricultural production
- Local Government Unit's commitment

## Suggested Development Projects

- Micro Finance
- Organic Gardening Assistance



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# Conclusion and Lessons Learned

- Increased economic activities thus improving the overall local economy
- Women empowerment
- Addressing infrastructure inadequacy
- Overseas Filipinos and local institutions for development is indeed a potential that is less harnessed by the government institutions.
- Bottom-up women-driven programs for development is promising and effective
- Economic intervention especially in providing entrepreneurial opportunities has to be included as a major aspect of development intervention.



# Associations of Bansalenos Worldwide (ABW- Bansalan, Davao del Sur)

## Factors that supported the project

- Website as a virtual community (exchanges of information and resources)
- Openness of Bansalan LGU to partner with the initiatives of ABW
- Conviction of ABW member in promoting Tres por Uno
- Strong community-ties among Bansalenos around the globe
- Resource-pooling of the local and “global” Bansalenos
- Partnership of a Netherland-base Filipino Assoc. (Kapatiran)



# Problems the project encountered

- Internal-conflict among the leadership of the Bansalenos abroad
- Disagreement on the direction of the group (however, the disagreement has produced two other organization helping out Bansalan)

# Local institution's/partner's contributions

- Labor counterpart was provided by the LGU (employees volunteered to help)
- Support from the Local Chief Executive
- Recognition of ABW projects through the Sanguniang Bayan
- LGU allocation of budget through the disaster fund to support the ABW initiative



# Sustainability

- Institutionalization of Sinulog sa Bansalan as a venue for migrant Bansalenos to come home together and celebrate with their town mates.
- Alumni association as a venue for development initiatives (collaboration of ABW, BANAMI, CHAFFI)
- Commitment of the LGU
- Collaboration of ABW, BANAMI and CHAFFI

## Suggested Development Projects

- Reforestation and Diking of the Bansalan River
- Literacy and Scholarship programs for the indigents
- Feeding programs



# Conclusion and Lessons Learned

- The active involvement of ABW, BANAMI and CHAFFI has benefited the town through the different projects implemented by the groups.
- collaboration with migrant association and the local government unit can effect significant change even with little internal efforts
- seed of collaboration between migrant associations and the LGU is very significant
- Bansalenos abroad are innately concern for their municipality
- “culture of collaboration” is very significant in transnational development initiatives
- Bansalan is a potential model worthy of replicating in other communities
- Generosity has a multiplier effect



# IPHO South Cotabato

- Started with sending of medical supplies to relatives
- Medical equipment and supplies were sent to the hospitals for the use and improvement of the Health Facilities of the Province



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# Factors that supported the project

- Strong commitment of Overseas Filipinos
- Strong support of the Provincial Government to the partnership project

# Problems the project encountered

- Delay of delivery
- Bureaucracy in the Government Line Agency especially in the Bureau of Customs
- Corruption in government institutions



# Local institution's/partner's contributions

- Payment of taxes and local transportation cost
- Delivery and distribution of the equipment and materials to rightful beneficiaries

## Sustainability

- Sustainability is dependent on the giving entity
- Local initiatives to sustain the project is through using the equipment for pay to generate funds

## Suggested Development Projects

- Health services programs
- Education
- Creating investment to provide employment for the people



# Conclusion and Lessons Learned

- Overseas Filipinos contributed greatly for the improvement of the quality of health services in the province particularly in the Provincial Hospital.
- The assistance reached the small clinics and health station in the countryside expanding delivery of health services in remote municipalities
- Strengthen the Provincial Government' commitment towards cooperation with overseas Filipinos for development programs.



# Conclusion and Lessons Learned

- Overseas Filipinos really have the heart to help their country and would give more than what is expected of them.
- The government bureaucracy became a blunder instead of hastening the implementation of assistance made by Overseas Filipinos
- Cooperation between the LGU and overseas Filipinos is very possible and would provide more benefits for the greater number of people in the locality.



# C&C express solutions Project

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Business
- Investment with impact on job creation
- Has impact on the technology advancement of the locality and in creating new skills
- Facilitated by various government agencies with technical and financial investment from overseas Filipinos



# Factors supported the project

- Strong determination and good business values
- Substantial technical and financial investment
- Partnership and local support
- High level of demand for the products and services it offers

# Problems the project encountered

- Relationship with the local partners and competitors
- Lack of skills among locals
- Transfer of skills requires more time and money
- Hard to meet the demand of more manpower



# Local institution's/partner's contributions

- Facilitating business establishment
- Facilitating sourcing of manpower for the business
- Legal and technical assistance

## Sustainability

- As a business, sustainability depends on the demand of the products and the management capability of the company



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# Conclusion and Lessons Learned

- Overseas Filipino contribution on investment coming into the province
- Skills transfer to the source country from Overseas Filipinos
- The most important factors are collaboration and networking between the industrial partner, the government institution, civic groups, academic institutions and local businessmen.



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# MAPID TRAINING PROGRAM - PHILIPPINES

## SESSION 2

### MIGRANTS' ASSOCIATIONS AND PHILIPPINE INSTITUTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT: REGION XII\*

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## Executive Summary

### Regional Overview of Development Realities and Prospects



Region 12 is located on the South-Central part of Mindanao. It is characterized by extensive coastlines, large tracts of highly arable plains, valleys and mountain ranges (Regional Medium-Term Development Plan, 2004-2010).

The region is one of the country's top producers of tuna, rice, corn, and high value crops, such as asparagus, banana, oil palm and coffee. It has large deposits of gold and copper and other minerals. It has ecotourism potentials with the presence of Mt. Apo, Lake Sebu, Liguasan Marsh and long stretch of beaches, among others. (Regional Medium-Term Development plan 2004-2010).

According to the 2002 census, the region has a total population of

3.2 million. There is a wide diversity across the four provinces: Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat, and the five cities of Cotabato, General Santos, Kidapawan, Koronadal and Tacurong. (Regional Medium-Term Development Plan, 2004-2010)

South Cotabato was pre-identified in the study as the province in Region 12 with the highest number of migrant workers. The succeeding discussion will focus on the province of South Cotabato.

### Regional Overview of International Migration Trends

Documents dealing with the history of migration in the region both internal and international are scanty.

Since the province of South Cotabato used to be a part of Region XI, data regarding overseas Filipinos coming from South Cotabato were included in Region XI. This is the reason why some of the data manifested conflicting figures. According to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), in 2006, there were a total of 17,269 Overseas Filipino Workers in Region XII, which at the time referred to three provinces, Lanao del Norte, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat.

Today, the new Region XII is composed of the provinces of North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat. Based on this new configuration, the total number of sea-based and land-based OFWs in the new Region XII is 21,256. South Cotabato has the highest number of OFWs with a total of 10,099 while the province with the lowest number of OFWs according to the membership record of OWWA is Sarangani with only 991 OFWs.

All of the informants admitted that they did not have any knowledge or data regarding the volume of international migration in the region and South Cotabato in particular.

There are scanty data on the composition of migrants in the regional, provincial and municipal level.

Secondary data regarding the destination and occupation of international migrants of the region is very limited and less reliable.

## **International Migration in Development Plans and Thrusts**

Although there are few cases of programs implemented by National Line Agencies that may include the overseas Filipinos, there is no clear program that focuses on international migration's role on development. International migration and other issues regarding overseas Filipinos were never mentioned in any of the development plans and programs of all line agencies and local government units. This is a clear indicator that the contributions of the overseas Filipinos, aside from their remittances, were not seen as a potential factor that will help realize the potential of the province or region.

## **Migrant giving, Migrant Investments and COOPERATION BETWEEN Migrants and Local Institutions**

Very few informants could identify transnational development projects. Most of the time they mentioned the government programs for OFWs and their families as one of these programs. They also identified foreign funded projects as a transnational development project of migrants.

The National Line Agencies at the regional level offices have limited exposure to linkages with overseas Filipinos. Most of their involvement with the overseas Filipinos is in document processing, welfare and protection of OFWs and deployment guidance. There is no link between overseas Filipino associations for development programs. The Provincial Government of South Cotabato is starting to implement a program that will recognize the contributions of the Overseas Filipinos to the province and invite them to visit the province at least once a year. This is geared towards improving the tourism sector of the province. Another linkage found during the study is the link between the city government of Koronadal and the overseas Filipinos in Hong Kong. However, this is still at the planning stage and the project has not taken off yet.

There is one transnational migrant development project being implemented in the province of South Cotabato. This project is helping improve the delivery of health services in the province through the provision of hospital equipment and materials. This has become one of the cases identified for the study.

Migrant giving was reflected in the partnership between overseas Filipinos and the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO) of the Provincial Government of South Cotabato. Migrant-giving, in the form of medicines and medical supplies, contributes not only to the improvement of basic services in the province but also to the improvement of the health, economy and well-being of households.

Informants from provincial government and the PHO admitted that since the province of South Cotabato lacks the capacity to deliver quality health services for

its constituents, this migrant giving project helps the provincial health office improve the delivery of health services without much financial burden for the province.

The transfer of skills and investments of the overseas Filipinos in South Cotabato also contributed to the economic boom of the province. One of the examples of overseas Filipino investment is shown in the second case study. A medical transcription company and a school for medical transcription established by a former Overseas Filipino and funded by an Overseas Filipino presently working abroad have created jobs in the South Cotabato. The investment also becomes a venue for transfer of skills and knowledge through the establishment of school for medical transcription.

Partnership between overseas Filipinos and government institutions was exhibited through the collaboration and assistance of different national line agencies in setting-up and improving the business. The regional and provincial offices of the Department of Trade and Industry, the regional office of Department of Labor and Employment, TESDA and other government institutions were actively involved with the establishment and growth of the project. The local Chamber of Commerce was also part of those who has supported the success of the project.

## **Realizations, Issues and The Way Forward: Perspectives from Policy Makers and Local Chief Executives**

The study has provided an opportunity for the government institutions to realize the role international migration plays in the development process. Most of the informants from the regional and provincial level government institutions admitted the lack of clear direction regarding the plight of OFWs in particular and international migration in general. Informants promised to discuss international migration issues during their next Regional Development Council (RDC) meeting and find ways to address the needs and implement programs that will help maximize the potential of international migration.

Upon realization of the enormous potential of international migration to the development of the region (through the study), local and regional government institutions considered the different benefits of international migration. The contribution of international migration to the development of the region was mainly equated in the form of remittances. They attested that the mushrooming of different economic activities in the region is largely influenced by remittances. The fast increase in the establishment of more banks and money transfer businesses is an indicator of the volume of overseas Filipino remittances. Thus, their contribution to the economy is not only in the increase in the demand for consumer goods but also the growth of the service sector and the real estate sector.

The social costs of international migration are also a pressing issue in the region that needs to be addressed. Dependence on remittances and problems generated by family separation were often mentioned by key informants.

There are numerous investments of overseas Filipinos in the region but the informants could not identify whether it is solely an overseas Filipino funded investment or not.

The trainings needed for the local and regional institutions, as seen in the findings, are: 1) Data gathering and data banking; 2) Orientation on the policies and regulations that pertain to partnership between Overseas Filipinos and government

institutions; and 3) Strategies in building partnership for development. Another suggestion is a discussion on the policies and programs especially in the provision and institutionalization of Overseas Filipinos continuing education. This is to help Overseas Filipinos to upgrade their skills and talent.

## Conclusion

The findings of the study highlighted the need for data on international migration. Data that could have helped in the development of programs to promote or enhance the partnership between government institutions and overseas Filipinos in development were non-existent.

Another conclusion derived from the findings of the study is the shift of development paradigm among key informants on the regional and local levels. The exposure to the study encouraged the regional and local planners to develop programs and strategies that will build a meaningful partnership between government institutions and overseas Filipinos.

Migrant-giving, as seen in the efforts of overseas Filipinos from South Cotabato, shows that the partnership between the overseas Filipinos and local institutions is not only feasible but could also be more effective in promoting development. The partnership between overseas Filipinos and the IPHO) resulted in better delivery of services. It also enhanced local institutions, like the hospital and IPHO.

The other case study showed the capacity of overseas Filipinos to share expertise, talents, and resources gained overseas. The study demonstrated that the migrant Filipinos are potential major providing employment and generate revenues for the government.