

Terminal Evaluation

Asia

1. Outline of the Project

Country:

Philippines

Project title:

Regional Development Support for Local Planning and Development Officers

Issue/Sector:

Regional Development Planning

Cooperation scheme:

In-country Training

Division in charge:

Southeast Asia Division, Regional Department I
(Southeast Asia and Indochina)

Total cost:**Period of Cooperation**

Fiscal Year 1999 -
2001

Partner Country's Implementing Organization:

Bureau of Local Government Supervision, Department of Interior and Local Government (BLGS/DILG)

Supporting Organization in Japan:**Related Cooperation:**

Dispatch of Expert; "Urbanization-related Development/Planning"

1-1 Background of the Project

The Bureau of Local Government Supervision, Department of Interior and Local Government (BLGS/DILG) of the Republic of the Philippines implemented various measures and policies to enhance the planning and development capabilities of local governmental units (LGUs) and extended both policy and administrative support to promote self-reliant development. On the other hand, the local administrations has come to be highlighted as one of the Government of Japan's major issues in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries, and the cooperation in this issue to the Philippines was also expanding.

Under these circumstances, the Government of Philippines (GOP) requested the Government of Japan (GOJ) to provide In-country Training to provide regional development support for local planning and development officers (LDPOs), through BLGS/DILG's implementation of intensive training to the local officers, thereby enhancing the capabilities of local governmental units (LGUs) in planning and development, and promoting further cooperation between the GOP and LGUs.

1-2 Project Overview

To enhance the knowledge and skills of LDPOs at LGUs, the Project implemented training courses in the field of local development.

(1) Overall Goal

Planning and development policies, administrative mechanisms, processes and practices at the local level are improved.

(2) Project Purpose

Participants gain learning and insight enabling them to plan, develop and manage sustainable development initiatives using the Goal-Oriented Project Planning (GOPP) technique.

(3) Outputs

- 1) Participants understand the theories and practices of local planning and development.
- 2) Participants obtain GOPP techniques.

3) Participants prepare their Action Plans, aiming at improving planning and developing policies, administrative mechanisms, processes and practices at the local level.

(4) Inputs

Japanese side:

Short-term Experts 3

Philippine side:

Counterparts 311 (6 training courses)

(5) Participant country

Philippines

2. Evaluation Team

Members of Evaluation Team JICA Philippines Office
(Commissioned to local consultant: Tito T. Oria, Sr.)

Period of Evaluation 7 January 2002 - 15 March 2002 **Type of Evaluation:** Terminal Evaluation by Overseas Office

3. Results of Evaluation

3-1 Summary of Evaluation Results

(1) Relevance

According to interviewed ex-participants (29 ex-participants), all of the ex-participants said that what they learned in the Training course was extremely important, especially GOPP, environmental assessment and sustainable development. The Project Purpose was in line with the expectations and needs of the Participants. The Project is consistent with the measures and policies that LGUs implemented to enhance their capabilities for planning and development and to promote their self-reliant development. Therefore, the Project is relevant to the LGUs' needs.

(2) Effectiveness

Based on the survey questionnaire (117 respondents) and interviews with ex-participants, the obtained techniques, especially GOPP, is now widely utilized. Today, 95 percent of the Municipal Council demands that their entire project proponent use GOPP all the time. About 98 percent of the respondents mentioned that they fully understood the GOPP techniques and already applied them in their work. At least, at the Terminal Evaluation, all Project proponents in the municipalities were ready to answer the most basic premise of "why they proposed certain projects." Judging from these facts, the Project was effective.

(3) Efficiency

JICA dispatched Japanese experts and shared expertise, knowledge and experiences with the participants as planned. At the first Training course, there was some delay, but that did not have a large influence on the Project. Some applicants did not join the Training, and the excess of funds as a result was returned to JICA.

(4) Impact

All of the ex-participant interviewed mentioned that "the Municipal Mayor down to his Municipal Councilors and Chief Officers no longer submitted proposals for funding approvals without thorough scrutinizing by the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC) and the Council." Accordingly, project proponents think more carefully before submitting their proposals. All of the ex-participants responding to the survey, especially those who belong to a province (League of Planning/Development Officers), said that they exchanged ideas/information regularly.

(5) Sustainability

The implementing organization, BLGS/DILG, is mandated to supervise the LGUs nationwide. Therefore, it has the legal power, complete with manpower complement, to allocate regular budgets, so it is considered that the Project has sustainability. BLGS/DILG had few trained or experienced staff before Project implementation. However, BLGS have learned much as a result of the Project, and now have technical sustainability.

3-2 Factors that promoted realization of effects

(1) Factors concerning Planning

N/A

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

1) As a result of the close coordination among BLGS, the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) and JICA from the onset of the Project, the Project progressed smoothly.

2) Ninety (90) participants were added to the original plan, but BLGS responded flexibly to the change, reformatted the curriculum, and smoothly prepared particulars in time for the course, which made it possible to implement the Training smoothly.

3-3 Factors that impeded realization of effects

(1) Factors concerning Planning

N/A

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

1) The most unfortunate situation the BLGS, an implementing body of the Project, faced initially was that top Management of DILG did not believe in the leadership and staff of the BLGS. This disbelief interferes with the Project; staff development and/or movement were halted, and budgetary support was kept to the minimum. However, because of the way they perform their tasks, DILG's seven top managers turned to support the BLGS.

2) Some municipalities still do not have reliable communications facilities, and invitations must be sent out two to three months prior to the Training. Follow-up is necessary to, but the follow-up conducted was inefficient.

3-4 Conclusion

According to the interviews with ex-participants, most of them mentioned that they applied all of the knowledge they learned in their work and shared the acquired knowledge with their colleagues. All ex-participants indicated that they still used their training materials as references. Eighty-six percent (86%) of the ex-participants indicated that they successfully implemented their Action Plans. Judging from above, the Project is very effective.

3-5 Recommendations

(1) Out of the 311 graduates, 161 participants are LDPOs, and the 161 represent only 10 percent of the total LDPOs nationwide. The Training has been evaluated as effective, and it is strongly recommended that the In-country Training be extended five years, or until an additional 200 LDPOs are trained.

(2) For the Project implementation in the future, it is suggested that the first batch should be dedicated to train a pool of regional trainers representing each region. The regional trainers in turn will be the ones to conduct the training for all LPDOs within their region. In this way, all LPDOs will be trained within a period of two to three years.

(3) There is little chance to attend the training course on a regional basis; therefore, the BLGS should implement the training necessary for its staff.

(4) JICA should consider extending the Project for three years since the training course to the staff of LPDOs is strongly needed. It is also recommended that JICA implement the course by region.

(5) JICA should continue the dispatch of experts to DILG for three more years.

(6) Only a few LGUs can utilize the Geographical Information System (GIS), and most LGUs do not have an understanding of GIS. The staff who participated in the training course acquired knowledge of GIS, but cannot actually apply what they learned because of budgetary restrictions. If possible, aside from the Project, it is desirable that JICA provide GIS equipment to the DILG Regional Office.

3-6 Lessons Learned

N/A

3-7 Follow-up Situation

The Training to the staff of BLGS will be continued by the self-support efforts of DILG The dispatch of experts to the DILG will be continued till 2004.