

# EROPA

## Daily Bulletin

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 12, 2005

### Today at a Glance

9:00 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.  
Conference Plenary IV  
Ballroom

10:25 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Workshop D  
Ballroom

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Lunch  
Ballroom

1:45 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.  
Special Session: UN Report  
Ballroom

3:15 p.m. - 4:35 p.m.  
Strategic Planning  
Ballroom

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Dinner hosted by the  
Ministry of Home  
Affairs  
Ballroom

### Announcement

All delegates are kindly reminded to inform the front desk of the Melia Hotel to confirm the duration of their stay. Please also confirm your return tickets at the lobby of the Hotel.

## Conference Plenary II: Assessing the Impact and the Monitoring Mechanisms for Attaining the MDGs



Professor Leonor Magtolis Briones advocated the need for independent and objective third party monitoring and assessments of the attainment of the MDGs. This is urgent because most reports on the MDG accomplishments are done by governments which tend to highlight the successes rather than the failures and the challenges.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) have done valuable and rigorous work to monitor the MDG accomplishments in many countries. Most of them are members of the global network of Social Watch. Many learnings and insights can be drawn from the experiences of Social Watch Philippines

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## Conference Plenary III: Creative, Effective and Viable Strategies to Build Capacities of Various Stakeholders Towards Attaining MDGs

The plenary session in the afternoon featured two presentations in building capacities of stakeholders in attaining MDGs. Professor Emilia Boncodin of the University of the Philippines presented a basic framework for developing strategies that build stakeholder's capacity for meeting MDG commitment. was discussed in the first presentation. The framework focused on the capacity needs of stakeholders and the strategies that best responds to those needs. Six categories of stakeholders (government, private sector, civil

society, academe, international aid agencies and media) were arrayed along with five capacity areas (institutional, organizational, human, financial, and technological) in a matrix. The strategic responses were then discussed for each relevant section, stressing practices that best increase the chances of attaining MDGs.

Dr. Akira Nakamura of Meiji University, Japan, on the other hand, raised

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## Plenary II

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(SWP), a national network of more than one hundred CSOs in monitoring the implementation of government commitments to social development. The members of SWP are primarily academics and other professionals who contribute their expertise and experience to the monitoring and advocacy work of Social Watch.

The SWP has the following attributes: close working relationship with academics and academic institutions; engagement of government institutions in an atmosphere of openness; active involvement at the grassroots level; and, close working relationship with the United Nations.

The monitoring of SWP is done at several levels: budgetary support, Quality of Life Index, attainment of MDG goals, and island consultations. By operating in all these levels, the SWP is able to draw a comprehensive picture of realities at the ground level. Since 1996 SWP has called attention to the fact that the share of finances for the MDGs is grossly inadequate and that the only sector whose share of the budget is increasing is debt servicing. For example, a total of P8.9 billion is required for MDG related projects in the Department of Health. However only P 1.4 Billion is available leaving a gap of P7.5 billion.

The SWP has developed the Quality of Life Index which it considers as its major contribution in monitoring poverty. This was developed with the support and technical contributions of academics and tested in the field using government statistics. The Index assigns equal weights to three basic capabilities: capability to be well nourished, the capability for healthy and safe reproduction and the capability to be educated and knowledgeable. After studies and statistical tests the following indicators have been developed: attended births, under-five nutrition and elementary cohort survival rate.

The SWP presents its findings in various public fora and consultation activities. "Island Consultations" are regularly held in the three main island groupings of the Philippines: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. These activities allow the SWP to share its findings and get feedback.

A current major output is the SWP Report 2005. In this report SWP concludes that the Philippines will have a difficulty meeting the MDG targets by 2015. The SWP assessments involve deep analysis, validation and correlation with grassroots situations. The report has been well received by national and international institutions.

The paper concludes that the search for meaningful ways of monitoring MDGs is a continuing process. The alternative measures that have been evolved by CSOs can help enrich those being developed by government and academic institutions. CSOs can also enhance the work of government in other aspects of MDGs as well, especially in the area of good governance. It is suggested that EROPA encourage the participation of CSOs in activities related to MDGs and partnerships in continuing efforts towards good governance.\*\*\*

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## Plenary III

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the issue of the dichotomy between government's overall responsibility for meeting MDG targets and the reality of the public's growing distrust of government. In this situation, he argued that non-government institutions will have to play a greater role to provide credibility to the process. The importance of ensuring transparency, accountability, productivity and equity in the implementation of government programs particularly the MDG commitments was emphasized. Likewise, it was

noted that while countries have subscribed to the MDG goals, it is important that country-specific development goals take precedence over MDG goals.

Finally, the chances of actually meeting MDG commitments by 2015, given the relatively slow progress over the last five years was raised. It was noted that unless strong political will is exercised in many countries, meeting MDG targets will be in jeopardy. However, the wake up call has been served; it is now up to individual countries and the various stakeholders to create the environment that will best ensure attainment of the MDG targets.\*\*\*

# Workshop on “Assessing the Impact and the Monitoring Mechanisms for Attaining the MDGs”

## Workshop B-1

There were three presenters for the first workshop with EROPA Deputy Secretary General Mary Ann Fernandez-Mendoza acting as Moderator. The first presenter was Dr. Gao Xiaoping, Vice President and Secretary General of the Chinese Public Administration Society of the People’s Republic of China with his paper on “Administrative Affairs Publicity: The Important Effort of Chinese Government in Attaining the MDGs.” He emphasized that the key to attaining the MDGs lies in the government. His paper focused on the significance and effect that administrative affairs publicity has on promotion of MDGs through the introduction of the public administration practice in China. Administrative affairs publicity in China includes, among others, disclosing to the government, the department, the name of the organization, its business and function, scope, location of office, name and contact information.



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## Workshop on “Creative, Effective and Viable Strategies to Build Capacities of Various Stakeholders Towards Attaining MDGs”

There were three speakers for this workshop. The first speaker was Professor Kamiko of Kyoto University, Japan. The paper presented by Professor Kamiko evaluated existing conduct codes in Japan to determine possible stimuli to explain the cases of disciplinary actions among government officials in Japan. He assessed their benefits, preceding and current conduct codes as



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## Workshop B-2

Professor Roger Wettenhall, University of Canberra, Australia in his paper “Thinking Seriously about Public-Private Partnerships as a MDG Tool” presented the need for collaboration and the ability to solve problems in public governance. These must, however, be founded on the following: (a) it must be genuinely collaborative; (b) have non-hierarchical relationships; (c) must involve consensual decision making; (d) have no single superior capable of invoking closure; (e) must achieve synergies between individual persons and organizations; and (f) must be built on trust. The major concern of these partnerships is the need of the whole and not the interest of the individual.

Dr. Prijono Tjiptoherihanto, of the University of Indonesia in his paper “Civil Service Reforms in Indonesia” emphasized the need to prioritize reforms in the civil service so as to achieve MDGs. The need to increase the salary of public servants in Indonesia must be the top priority of the government. “With good and sufficient salary system, the clean and responsible civil servants might become a reality and not just a dream,” he said. He also mentioned other reforms that must be addressed by the government such as recruitment system, promotion program, training and retirement plan for the public servants.

Mr. Masoud Shokrollahi of the Management and Planning Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran in his paper entitled “Decentralization as a Major Tool for Building Capacity for Governance Stakeholders Towards Achieving MDGs” emphasized the need to strengthen the

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## Workshop on “Creative, ... from p.3

well as the New Public Service Ethics Law that was introduced in 1999. However, these conduct codes did not seem to contribute to better conduct of government officials. Professor Kamiko noted that “the number of disciplinary actions is steadily rising. The rise may be attributed to the introduction of the stricter rule in the period immediately after the introduction although the number has been rising all through the years since 1996.”

Prof. Kamiko concluded that it is difficult to determine the reasons why there are few misconduct among government officials in Japan. Being a government official in Japan comes with prestige, which has began to decline, equally affecting their pride, which is undoubtedly underpinned to their sense of ethics. He believes that the time will come they would need new measures to deal with this rise in disciplinary actions.

The second speaker was Professor Carlos Magtolis, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Philippines. Prof. Magtolis shared the experiences of Silliman University in promoting more proactively the MDGs. The university has become the center of Social Watch Philippines in the Visayas. Among its activities, it conducts symposia, public lectures on the MDGs, and more significant, it has started incorporating MDGs in courses such as Political Science and publications. Prof. Magtolis also said that part of the university’s future efforts include revisions of the curriculum to include MDGs, teacher’s training and expanding linkages with other schools to facilitate localization of the MDGs. These experiences provide directions to other universities and thus, help advance accomplishments of the MDGs.

Finally, the third speaker was Professor Kosaku Dairokuno of Meiji University, Japan. Professor Dairokuno in his paper presented initiatives of local governments in Japan in making the policy implementation process more efficient and transparent. While this approach considers the needs of the residents, it can tacitly shift various burdens of the local governments to their residents. The paper presented actual cases where the local governments tried to get the private sector involved in certain types of public policies. For example the private developer constructs a building in the land owned by the local government where it only pays the cost of their own floors while keeping the ownership of the land. In Yonai City, communities can apply for a grant for road construction that they will actually implement. Despite the successes of these engagements, he believes that there are still many issues and concerns that must be raised. For one, he sees difficulties in applying these initiatives in large communities.\*\*\*

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The second presenter was Prof. Gloria Lee of Benguet State University, Benguet, Philippines with her paper “Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in the Cordillera: The Benguet Experience.” Her presentation focused on what can be done in the regional and provincial level despite the lack of resources. She also discussed the *Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan* (Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services), the program that targets the poorest barangay and the most critical sector in the community.

The third presenter was Mr. Nisth Keopanya, Deputy Director General of the Public Administration and Civil Service Authority (PACSA), Prime Minister’s Office, Lao People’s Democratic Republic with his paper entitled “ Public Administration Reforms: Support to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Lao PDR.” He emphasized that the implementation of priority areas of governance and public administration reforms in Laos may be done in four (4) areas:

1) public service improvement; 2) people’s participation; 3) rule of law; and 4) sound financial management. In Lao PDR, the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) is the main vehicle to achieving the MDGs at the local level. But other national strategies will need to be employed if the MDGs are to be reached by 2015. He also discussed the linkage between MDGs and NGPES and the strong government commitment towards attaining the MDG targets.\*\*\*

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## Workshop B-2... from p.3

capacity of governance stakeholders in order to achieve MDGs. Building the capacity of these stakeholders can be undertaken through the decentralization of major government functions. Such decentralization may be in the form of redistribution of powers to local units and the creation of Regional Ministers that would take care of governance concerns in their areas. Mr. Shokrollahi stressed the point that unless Iran will do these reforms, achieving MDGs would be very difficult.\*\*\*