

EROPA

Daily Bulletin

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October 13, 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 IV: “Focusing Special Attention on Specific Goals and Targets of the Millennium Development Goals”

Dr. Mark Hayllar of the City University of Hongkong presented a paper on “Promoting Public-Private partnerships to Attain Millennium Goals in a Developed City: The Case of Hongkong.

The paper began with the proposition that the underlying principles and means for attainment of MDG targets apply to more developed countries as well, including Hongkong. Despite Hongkong’s high per capita income and absence of absolute poverty, existing social issues involving failing health care, lack of social safety net, aging population, continuing under- and unemployment and housing deficiencies compelled the Hongkong government to formulate a practical plan to achieve the MDGs. This plan is contained in a document called “Investing in Development: a practical plan to achieve Millennium Development Goals.” The plan identified ten key recommendations for MDG attainment, the three most important of which were as follows: strong political leadership and commitment to MDGs; accountable and socially inclusive

Continued Page 2



Workshop D

There were three presenters in Workshop C. In his paper entitled “Reforming Public Administration in Attaining Millennium Development Goals in Nepal,” Secretary Madhav Prasad Ghimire, Ministry of Administration Nepal, presented reforms that are being undertaken by the government of Nepal over the past five years, which are essential to achieving the MDGs. These reforms aim at strengthening the capacity, efficiency, and competence of the public servants; reducing corruption in government; and establishing processes for improving performance. Systems



such as performance-based management, succession plan, merit-based recruitment and promotion, guidance handling and career



development have already been institutionalized. In the area of human resource management, a personnel information system has been developed for the first time. Other strategies to attaining MDGs in Nepal include the

Continued Page 2

Plenary IV

from p.1

governance; and a strategy for effective private sector involvement. The Hongkong government has demonstrated that in these three key areas, it has generally satisfied the requisite criteria under the MDG and the plan document except in such areas as information access and labour exploitation issues.

More specifically, the presentation highlighted the government's efforts at encouraging public private partnerships (PPP) and the contributions that private enterprises have made to the economic success of Hongkong. In almost all factors associated with enhancing private sector involvement, Hongkong ranked high in the assessment, indicating the high priority the government accords to the contributions of the private sector.

From the early days of its post-war history, Hongkong has tapped the private sector in the provision of economic infrastructure and public services, including the supply and distribution of electricity and gas, telecommunications infrastructure, cruise terminal and container port, and public transport. The major impetus for PPP came from the budgetary deficits of the early 2000s and the government target to reduce public expenditure to no more than 20% of GOP. Under such arrangements, government defines the quality and quantity of services and their time frame while the private sector is responsible for delivering the service, including project financing. The benefits of PPP include productivity improvements and cost efficiency, improvement of quality of service delivery, risk sharing, encouragement of innovation, generation of business opportunities and jobs, access to private finance and improvement in cash flows.

Four projects undertaken under PPP in Hongkong were cited and analyzed to demonstrate the benefits and pitfalls of such arrangements. These projects were the Cyberport, the Asia-World Expo, the West Kowloon Cultural District and the Centre for Youth Development. Except for the Asia-World Expo project, the other three have met difficulties and have in fact eroded the public's trust in the PPP arrangements due to issues like inadequate consultations, perceived favoritism, and procurements issues. These cases underlined the need for full transparency at the project level, assurance of social responsibility of private partners, and government's complete credibility in the preparation, regulation and monitoring of PPP projects.

The challenges in Hongkong's PPPs in the immediate term essentially involves restoring the public's trust in PPP arrangements. In the long term, it involves strengthening accountability mechanisms to sustain public support for PPP. This calls for intensive promotion of good practices, a very inclusive approach, continuous conduct of briefings and other forms of consultations and public information campaigns.***

Workshop D from p.1

following: effective service delivery, devolution and empowering local units, empowering communities, social inclusion, anti-corruption measures, improved policy coordination and implementation. In conclusion, Sec. Ghimire said "With only 10 years left for the attainment of the MDGs, there is a need to make even more concrete efforts to move forward with renewed zeal and vigor."

The second presenter was Mr. Namkhajantsan, Economic Policy Advisor to the President of Mongolia. His presentation entitled "Linkages Between the Goals of Good Governance and MDGs: Lessons from the

Mongolian Experience." Mr. Namkhajantsan divided his paper into two parts: Public Administration Reforms in Mongolia and current perspective on the MDGs. The government of Mongolia made a strong effort to integrate MDGs into its Public Administration Strategies on poverty reduction with the will to link economic policies with social development trends, to streamline them towards poverty reduction, to encourage participation of the public and to improve external assistance effectiveness. Mr. Namkhajantsan stressed that should the present trend or situation of poverty Mongolia is not reversed, the MDG target of halving the poverty headcount by 2015 will be a real challenge for the country.

Continued Page 4

Special Session: UN Report



The presentation of Ms. Anuradha Rajivan of UNDP reported the progress of attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from the Asia-Pacific perspective and the institutional changes that have to be made to meet basic services provision. Ms. Rajivan categorized the various levels of attainment of the goals: early achievers; on-track, off-track; slow progress and off-track, regressive. She emphasized that there are no perfect performers who would be able to attain all aspects simultaneously nor are their “bad performers who are totally off-track on all the targets. She enumerated the specific goals declared in the Millennium Development Goals and discussed what has been currently done within the region for each goal.



She highlighted the achievements and key challenges that the region is facing before it can attain the MDGs, particularly the growing disparities in economy, and issues on public service delivery in the fields of health, finance and education. She identified possible approaches to these challenges and emphasized the need for partnership, especially between government, private and social communities and recognize the need for resources with appropriate institutional changes to overcome these challenges and attain the goals.***

Strategic Planning Workshop

As part of providing future directions for the EROPA, Dr. Alex B. Brillantes, Jr., Deputy Secretary-General of EROPA and Dean of the National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines facilitated a strategic planning workshop. Dr. Brillantes emphasized the need to ask the hard questions in the discourse of public administration and good governance towards the attainment of MDGs. It is in this context that the questions for the workshop were introduced.

There were two guide questions for the workshop. These are the following: (1) Based on the various presentations during the conference, and based on your own experience & informed opinion, what are the major challenges, issues and concerns confronting public administration and governance in attaining the MDGs in the region today?; and (2) What steps should EROPA take to respond to the issues, concerns and challenges raised in workshop 1?

Workshop 1

For workshop 1, the following are the summary of the responses from the participants: (1) challenge on information dissemination, (2) issue on lack of leadership, (3) issue on the lack of financial capability, (4) challenges for the governments on different areas of governance, and (5) concern for capacity building.

Workshop 2

For workshop 2, the following were suggested for EROPA to take as steps to respond to the issues, challenges and concerns identified in workshop 1: (1) joint research and information sharing, and (2) organizational initiatives. Among the organizational initiatives identified are the following:

- Prepare short-term, long-term plans including strategies and action plans
- Set up “Administrative clinic” to take care of “administrative diseases” e.g. corruption

Continued Page 4



Workshop D from p.2

The third presenter was Professor Rufa Cagoco-Guiam, the coordinator of the MPA Program and Director of the Center for Peace and Development Studies, Mindanao State University, General Santos City, Philippines. Her paper is entitled “Challenges and Opportunities for MDG Implementation: Notes and Observations from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Philippines.” She explained the major challenges for MDG in implementation in the ARMM: extreme poverty, low net enrollment rates in basic education and secondary education, low employment rate for women, very limited participation of women in local and regional governance, high infant mortality compared to the whole country, high rates of malnutrition and anemia among children, high maternal mortality rates, small budget allocated to Mindanao by the Department of Health, environmental degradation and periodic flooding in Lanao Sur, Maguindanao and weak LGU-NGO collaboration. There are some opportunities such as the high level of inputs from international donor agencies. However, the signing of the Final peace is very crucial to make progress on the MDGs goals.***



Strategic Planning... from p.3

- More visibility for EROPA through publicity
- Develop and design training course on MDGs for leaders
- Accept members from private sector
- Tap resources, e.g. international and regional institutions, experts and other human resource, knowledge, CSOs, funding agencies to support plans and programs
- Link EROPA to other networks such as NAPSIPAG
- Get additional funding and full time EROPA secretariat

Dinner Hosted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Socialist Government of Vietnam

