



**World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for the Philippines
Meeting Summary
Ateneo de Naga University
June 13, 2019**

One of the regional Country Partnership Framework (CPF) consultations was held in Ateneo de Naga University (AdNU), Naga City last June 13, 2019 with the strong cooperation of the Knowledge Development Community (KDC) partner in AdNU. The consultation was attended by faculty members and non-teaching staff of AdNU and Unibesidad de Sta. Isabel; Local Government Unit (LGU) representatives; Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) leaders; and civil society organizations.

Consultation Details:

Country Partnership Framework Consultation in Naga

Fr. Godofredo Alingal, SJ Convention Hall, Ateneo de Naga University

13 June 2019, 12:00NN – 3:30PM

Faculty members and non-teaching staff	Local Government Unit	Youth Leaders	Civil Society Organization
35 participants	19 participants	8 participants	19 participants

The consultation began with a public forum on the Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) followed by a brief description of the CPF and purpose and mechanics of the group discussions. The SCD is an essential component of CPF. After the plenary program is done the forum audience proceeded to breakout groups for the discussions (FGD), with each discussion facilitated by a WBG staff member.



Fr. Roberto Exequiel N. Rivera, SJ, President of Ateneo de Naga University giving his comments on the Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) report.

Consultation Agenda:

- Opening Remarks given by AdNU President
- Presentation of Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) draft report
- Open Forum on the SCD
- Background on the Country Partnership Framework for the Philippines
- Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on CPF

Discussion Highlights during the FGDs:

There was a focus group discussion particularly for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW.) With a civil society organization open to Naga City residents who used to be OFWs or whose family members are currently OFWs.

Thoughts of migrant workers

- *Streamlining recruitment and processes for government agencies.* The job application process for going abroad has improved, and additional government services such as cultural adjustment orientations and country profiles are provided.
- *Positives and negatives of working abroad.* While some believe that working abroad is better because income is higher, the nature of the job is likely to be lower quality (e.g. teachers working as domestic help). For many, working abroad sometimes is the only available option to make enough money to support a family.
- *Challenges of working abroad.* OFWs are vulnerable to abusive practices such as contract misrepresentation, abusive companies and bosses, breach of contract, withholding salaries, and abusive work arrangements. Those who are married are constantly worried about being away from their spouse, the possibility of failed marriage because of being apart.
- *Systematic saving mechanism for OFWS.* Financial literacy is needed in order to help OFW families manage savings and invest properly if there are any savings to be had. Participants were hopeful that the government can establish a mechanism to help the OFWs save money.
- *Returned migrants experience discrimination.* They are perceived as wealthy and thus are left out of the government programs even if they consider themselves indigent too.

On the Philippine Systematic Country Diagnostic

Intervention in the family, community and nation. Investing in families by supporting housing, education, and livelihood and employment should be the top priorities.

On the Philippines' assets and strengths

Filipino values as one of the assets. Some of Filipino values raised during the FGD are as follows: strong family ties, resiliency, and have good English communication skills.

On the main issues and challenges

- **Governance**
Continuity of policies and programs across administrations. Participants raised the issues of constantly changing government directions on policies and programs, both at the national but more importantly at the local level. When the Mayor changes, projects will stop midstream,

identified beneficiaries of programs are changed for patronage purposes, and policies are overturned.

Corruption/politicization of government services. Corruption is still a serious constraint to development, and sentiments toward politicians seem to be very negative. Flagged as most pernicious is that they see the *selection of projects* as being determined by the opportunity for corruption it presents to the local officials. Even in the public hospitals and access to financial support for medical care, access to high quality care and attention from the medical professionals, are available based on who a patient knows in the Mayor's office.

- **Environmental Issues**

Climate change risks. Younger participants are more likely to raise this issue, but it is also raised by those who work with farmers. For several who mentioned climate change, the concern is with disaster risk reduction, dealing with more and stronger typhoons. Government assistance to farmers for disasters such as droughts is insufficient or poorly implemented.

- **Human Capital (Health and Job)**

Reproductive health. Early marriage, high rates of teenage pregnancies, and large numbers of children in a family is identified as a constraint to poverty reduction. Institutionalizing effective sex education in school was proposed as a way to curb the incidence of early pregnancy.

There is no human capital development plan. Senior High School tracks, college degree offerings, and technical and vocational training support are not streamed or guided by knowledge of the jobs in demand, the jobs that the government seeks to create, or the international job market. Further, these plans and frameworks do not exist to address specific regional needs.

On the priorities for action

- Public-private partnership that eventually be owned by the government;
- Increase salary;
- Grassroot implementation on organic technology sponsored by WB;
- Cascade national goals to the LGU; and
- Funds for 4Ps to transfer into manufacturing and salary
- OFWs – maltreatment and safety
- Promotion of values formation;
- Political dynasties
- Entrepreneurship and employment
- Corruption
- Plastic pollution
- Improve quality of education
- Transparency of policymaking
- Support to microbusinesses
- Increase agriculture subsidies
- Political campaign reform