



KM Workshop # 3:

Sharing of Good Practices on Knowledge-based Development for the Poor

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Prof. Serafin stated the workshop objectives which included: (a) appreciating knowledge-based development and the process of bringing out the collective knowledge of a group, and (b) identifying good practices in KBD for the poor. He discussed the concept of KBD, and how it relates capital development to the economic, social, and natural value domains of sustainable development. Several examples served to illustrate how the concept of “capital” can be stretched to refer to anything that can create value. Furthermore, the leveraging on collective knowledge was pointed out as the commonality among successful ventures like Flickr, Wikipedia, Youtube, Myspace.com, etc. Using terms such as “collaborative authoring”, “crowd sourcing”, “wikis”, “peer production”, “value networks”, “open source”, “collective intelligence networks”, “communities”, and “social networking” he explained that a new social technology is indeed emerging in many-to-many knowledge synergy. The driving force of this is network economics, whose underlying philosophy is Metcalf’s Law, which states that the potential value of a network increases as n^2 . Knowledge can be consumed by many without its utility diminishing; in fact, knowledge, when used, appreciates in value, unlike physical capital.

Mr. Alwin Sta. Rosa, Business Excellence Officer of First Philippine Holdings Corporation, followed Prof. Talisayon’s presentation and described the workshop procedure. The workshop goal was to demonstrate the multiplier effect of knowledge. Instead of simply being readers and consumers of knowledge, the group would experience trying to produce and create more knowledge and see how far innovation has helped with the development of new products. The workshop proper comprised three parts. The initial draft phase subdivided the group into three brainstorming groups. Their task was to come up with three examples each of innovative anti-poverty projects, projects that bridge the digital divide, KBD projects for the poor, or successful community-based systems, and describe the unique approaches that characterize them. The designated scribe wrote in black ink the results on the first of the three columns of flipchart paper. During the second phase, called the “wiki” phase, the participants counted off 1 to 3. In 5-minute turns, they would go around to read group results with one representative per group to stay to answer any questions that might be raised. Participants could write their comments and edits on the second column in red ink, while they could react to the comments on these comments in the third column using blue ink. The workshop outputs are found below.

Group 1

Good Practices/ Projects and short descriptive phrase for each	Comments/Reactions	Comments on the Comments
Rural banking financial literacy to enable rural people to engage in the money economy	Is this from Fiji? Does it involve mobile banking?	Yes, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, PNG Mobile banking- by lorry (truck) driven to area ≠ ATM or handphone still to be developed
Participatory Poverty Assessments Assets→Needs→Coping→Priorities Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) ADB Regional Strategy for Pacific	Need to have standard participatory poverty assessment	+/- dependent more on focus of end use standard measurement tools have adaptability to meet variety situation without sacrificing set of non-negotiable criteria e.g. PCNC assessment process, governance admin, program Ops, Financial acceptability - Standard assessment has been used. See ADB's "Priorities of the People" booklets for Pacific Islands
Megacity Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Base (Mega-Know)- Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) - Sharing of sound practices, city profiles, e-library - Risk communication, support decision making www.earthquakesandmegacities.org /megaknow	Good practices database on disaster prevention might be useful to learn from other countries.	The current database already contains sound practices from other countries (about 20 megacities)

Group 2

Good Practices/ Projects and short descriptive phrase for each	Comments/Reactions	Comments on the Comments
ICT utilization (Network access project) - capacity building (training on internet use)	- Many Pacific Islands lack power and internet access. Such ICT projects are difficult to implement at present - IFAD has a project in Tanzania,—First Mile—where farmers use mobile phones to access market prices. With an assessment of US\$200,000, today their income is \$1.8 million	In the Philippines, electrification for island provinces is strong by promoting using solar energy and even traditional fossil fuels
Discussion groups (IOIs) - knowledge sharing/capture - echo training sessions	- Echo training/capacity building is vital. However it is equally important to conduct needs assessment and base-capacity to structure training efficiently.	

<p>Community-based development projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clear property/access rights - emphasis on organizing communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ management tools (e.g., mapping, land use planning) - capital/funding/revolving fund - providing community knowledge services - farmer/water user groups (community knowledge exchange) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ storytelling, community theatre ➤ environmental education and awareness - study tour focusing on traditional and indigenous knowledge systems that work 	<p>(now being replicated in Tokelau, Niue)</p> <p>Tuvalu has an outer island trust fund which provides funding direct to local governments to give independence from national budget.</p> <p>Big issue is Governance and Accountability – capacity at local level- UNDP is providing support</p> <p>In Syria we have roaming theatres</p> <p>In Eastern, Southern Africa and Latin America we have farmer-to-farmer visits and learning routes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is national government getting back its share on the interest or is it flowed back to the trust fund? - No, all income goes to local government.
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Group 3

Good Practices/ Projects and short descriptive phrase for each	Comments/Reactions	Comments on the Comments
<p>UNDP Malaysia/ Government of Malaysia</p> <p>-mangrove conservation project which benefited the livelihoods of a small fishing community</p> <p>*Innovative practice - involved local peoples to assess needs and develop livelihood options to benefit the whole community</p>	<p>-Similar projects exist in Samoa and Fiji to preserving local fisheries</p> <p>-Developing “development” intervention solutions best stem from surveying local needs before actual going into community</p> <p>-Pacific Forum has established sets and “principles of good practice”</p>	<p>Local knowledge</p> <p>Local social network</p> <p>Local structures</p>
<p>Procurement Watch- Philippines</p> <p>-advocating for transparency and efficiency in public procurement</p> <p>*Innovative practice - creating an interactive website to serve as a “wiki” harnessing local knowledge to make it general knowledge (national level)</p>	<p>Seems to be a great initiative. Key challenge is those that provide and load information to the web, whether they are willing?</p> <p>How were you able to make people participate initially?</p>	<p>Initially, we had focal group discussions (FGDs) to determine their common personal desires/needs, and linked its (partial) achievement to participation</p>
<p>Department of Trade and Industry- Philippines</p> <p>- national database of SME Manufacturers to match raw material suppliers (micro-level entrepreneurs)</p> <p>*Innovative practice - using ICT to match SMEs with micro level entrepreneurs to help build micro businesses into SMEs</p>	<p>Pacific countries are forming a Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation to share their knowledge</p>	<p>Philippine export or EDC should be informed of this effort</p>

Discussion Points

A plenary discussion of results thus ensued, which was facilitated by Dr. Talisayon. He said that the workshop process was an exercise in knowledge-based development. Perspectives tend to be different when the person answering the question changes. He asked the participants their comments on the process of knowledge-exchange, by reiterating or creating new knowledge.

Jesus Tamang (Philippine Department of Energy) shared that the process itself is a knowledge enhancing experience. Going around one gets to learn more about practices implemented, by itself providing a lot of information on different projects focused on different communities, even islands. This is an important concern for the Philippines—to ensure program sustainability, in their case, providing energy to communities. Furthermore, access to information is lacking in farm projects. It was good to know that there are strategies that they can adopt.

What IFAD found useful was the similarities across the results, according to Roxanne Samii. They could learn from each other's mistakes. Unfortunately, in the development community, this does not happen very often, because of the competition for service providing and for funding. Rica Alejandrino-Lane (CBN Asia) added that there was no need to reinvent the wheel; the key is to find the best adaptable solution, from what others have already done.

David Abbott (UNDP Pacific Centre, Fiji) mentioned that the important issue is trying to define who their customers are, ultimately. UNDP works with people in very remote Pacific islands who live traditional lifestyles, who possibly do not have access to IT, who do not have reading as a typical cultural characteristic. While many people read, there are many who do not. Therefore, there is a need to search for ways through which knowledge can be transmitted to the target users in a way that is truly helpful.

Tina Pimentel (Roberto F. de Ocampo Center, Philippines) added that some of the projects are complementary; working in tandem with other groups is an option. Networks can be expanded, as there is still so much to learn and teach. When one examines development experience, regardless of country or perspective, very similar techniques and frameworks are actually used, except that they are already tailor-fitted to their audience. Such do not need to be "high-technology", they can be paper and pencils. There is a general misconception that knowledge management is equivalent to ICT.

Mr. Nestor Mijares (NEDA) pointed out that the beauty of this workshop process allowed for some space for emotions and feelings. The tendency to become mechanical about certain processes leads to missing the opportunity of the moment.

Not wanting to lose touch with the group, Dr. Talisayon urged the group to keep connected so that they can learn from each other regarding their activities in KM. Networking by "taking advantage of each other" where everyone will be a winner will be fruitful because they have a special interest, that is, KM for development. The participants reacted very positively to this suggestion. There are plans for a directory with all the email addresses to be sent to the participants; for an egroup to be created and moderated by Tina; for personal profiles to be added to introduce more fully what each person is doing and what his/her particular interests are. Ms. Samii shared that the ODI has produced a very useful compendium for KM tools; Ms. Charmalee Jayasinghe shared that the UNDP has also published electronically a compendium of good practices, which is always evolving with many submissions.