

## SUPPLEMENTARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: Philippines Country Office

TA No., Country and Name  TA 3966-PHI: Regional Capability Building and Governance for Expanded Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao Reprogrammed TA savings for Strengthening the Capacities of the Province of Southern Leyte in Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation (the other TAs were TA 3524-PHI, and TA 3847-PHI)		Amount Approved: \$ 140,000 (Part of \$300,000 TA savings)  Revised Amount: -	
Executing Agency: Provincial Government of Southern Leyte	Source of Funding: TA 3966-PHI: TASF	Amount Undisbursed: \$4,696.33	Amount Utilized: \$135,303.67
TA Approval Date: 13 December 2006	TA Signing Date: 30 March 2007	Fielding of First Consultant: April 2007  TA Completion Date Original: 30 June 2008      Actual: 30 June 2008  Account Closing Date Original: 30 June 2008      Actual: 20 October 2008	
<p><b>Description</b></p> <p>In February 2006, a series of landslides caused widespread damages and loss of lives in the province of Southern Leyte. The landslides left 1,112 people killed, 973 missing and immediate damages worth about \$3.5 million. Of the 19 local government units (LGUs), six were directly hit by the landslides and another three were affected. The municipality of St. Bernard was the worst hit, and Barangay Guinsaugon, a mountain village with around 2,500 residents, was completely buried by mud of up to 30-40 meters high.</p> <p>Various agencies including the Asian Development Bank (ADB) responded immediately to the disaster. On 21 February 2006, President Kuroda expressed ADB's readiness to take a proactive stance. In April 2006, an ADB Mission was fielded in Southern Leyte to meet key LGU officials where grant assistance was requested to address both the physical infrastructure and capability building needs of the province in disaster risk management. As a result, ADB conducted a needs assessment study, and prepared in close coordination with the Embassy of Japan in Manila, a grant project financed by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) to meet the civil works rehabilitation and reconstruction requirements. At the request of the Government, ADB further processed the reprogramming of \$300,000 of the unutilized TA funds (<i>TA 3524-PHI: Rural Road Development; TA 3847-PHI: Strengthening the Anti-Money Laundering Regime; and TA 3966-PHI: Regional Capability Building and Governance for an Expanded Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao</i>) to support strengthening the capacity of the provincial LGU in disaster preparedness and mitigation. In December 2006, ADB approved both the \$3 million JFPR project and the \$300,000 reprogrammed TA project for capacity building.</p>			
<p><b>Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs</b></p> <p>The reprogrammed TA was expected to capacitate the province of Southern Leyte, LGUs, and local communities that were affected by the landslides and still in high risk areas, on disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and management. The TA was intended to complement the hardware-focused (rehabilitation and reconstruction) components of JFPR 9102-PHI: <i>Southern Leyte Landslide Disaster Assistance</i> and address the software (institutional strengthening and capacity building) that is needed for short- and long-term disaster risk management in Southern Leyte. The following outputs were expected: (i) institutional strengthening of Provincial Disaster Management Office (PDMO); (ii) establishment of five pilot LGU emergency and rescue teams; and (iii) capacity building of local communities on disaster risk management.</p>			
<p><b>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities</b></p> <p>The TA inputs were provided adequately to achieve the objectives of the reprogrammed TA. A total of 22 person-months of local consultants provided services, including 12 person-months of team leader/coordinator, four person-months of disaster risk management operations/training consultant, and six person-months of training service provider over the 1-year implementation period. The respective performance evaluation report (PER) of the consultants were prepared in July 2008 where the performance of the team leader was rated excellent and the disaster risk management operations consultant was rated satisfactory. The role of the training service provider was crucial in ensuring timely and quality delivery of training conduction and documentation formulations. The training service provider was rated fully satisfactory, and the executing agency confirmed the engagement of the training service provider in the province was very productive particularly in promoting disaster risk management initiatives among LGUs in the province.</p>			

The executing agency, despite its unfamiliarity with ADB operations and guidelines in the early implementation stage, was able to provide necessary counterpart support, including appointment of project director and project manager, and has shown willingness and capacities to learn from the TA. The performance of the executing agency is rated satisfactory. The participating LGUs demonstrated strong commitments and support to project implementation. ADB project team conducted intensive monitoring and review missions in close coordination with the executing agency to address implementation issues and concerns on the timely basis.

### **Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome**

The reprogrammed TA has significantly enhanced the institutional capabilities of the key provincial disaster management and response team in Southern Leyte - PDMO; capacitated 5 pilot LGUs of Southern Leyte with specialized disaster risk management teams; provided systematic training opportunity on disaster risk management to various stakeholders from provincial level, to municipal level and down to local communities; and conducted a training of trainers program to capacitate the province with a pool of potential local trainers on disaster risk management.

Apart from the comprehensive training programs provided to PDMO staff on strategic planning, disaster risk management plan formulation and validation, key institutional and operational documents including Southern Leyte Provincial Disaster Risk Management Framework and Plan, PDMO Strategic Plan, PDMO Operations Manual, and PDMO Facilitators' Kit were formulated. Under the reprogrammed TA, 5 pilot LGUs (namely, Maasin, Malitbog, Libagon, San Francisco, and Hinunangan) established respective emergency response teams. The emergency response team members together with PDMO staff became the core trainees under the training of trainers program. The reprogrammed TA also capacitated 19 barangays (versus the originally targeted 15) with the community-based disaster risk management training, the hazard maps and community-based contingency plans, and rescue tools and equipment.

### **Overall Assessment and Rating**

The overall rating of the reprogrammed TA is successful. The reprogrammed TA was very relevant in strengthening the institutional capabilities of the provincial government of Southern Leyte, LGUs, and local communities in disaster preparedness and mitigation. The reprogrammed TA was efficacious in achieving the major planned outputs. The implementation of the TA activities was efficient with the consultants' inputs, counterpart supports by the provincial government and pilot LGUs of Southern Leyte, and intensive monitoring and reviews of ADB project team. To ensure the sustainability, the reprogrammed TA has substantively enhanced the institutional and operational capacities of the provincial government, pilot LGUs, barangays and local communities on disaster risk management; formulated key institutional and operational documents for the provincial government; provided 25 tailor-made training programs to different target stakeholders; documented all the training process for future uses by the provincial government and LGUs; and conducted a training of trainers program to capacitate the province with a pool of potential local trainers on disaster risk management.

### **Major Lessons**

The following two key lessons were learned from the implementation of the reprogrammed TA: (i) political change (due to official tenure) and subsequent transition in the mindset of the LGU administration have significant impact on project implementation process in terms of direction, operations, and staff morale. Reengagement of new LGU administration, even eventually successful, would require long time and great patience; and (ii) knowledge and skills on disaster risk management are weak among LGUs and at all levels, and there is a great need to customize the implementation process to the needs of different levels.

### **Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions**

Largely due to resource and time constraints, there are still gaps beyond the coverage of the reprogrammed TA. To continue with efficient disaster risk management in Southern Leyte is still a big challenge considering its geographical disaster-prone location and limited local financial resources. Strong leadership and commitments of provincial government of Southern Leyte are crucial in continuing to engage stakeholders at all levels in harnessing necessary policy, operational and financial supports to the institutionalization of disaster risk management in Southern Leyte.