



*Harmonization
Philippines Country Experience*

Harmonization Program and Agenda



- Following the initiative and agreement of Rome Round Table
- Philippines Harmonization Program was structured through coordination among World Bank, JBIC and ADB and in consultation with GOP

Harmonization Program

- Two main areas of intervention have been identified and agreed for harmonization:
 - procurement, and
 - financial management and financial auditing

Areas and Agenda of Harmonization

- On procurement, it focuses on:
 - legal framework
 - Preparation of standard bidding documents
 - Preparation of Procurement Manual
 - Procurement Reporting Format
 - Registration and Licensing Procedures
 - Training and Certificate Program

Areas and Agenda of Harmonization

- On Financial Management and Auditing
 - Financial management capacity assessment
 - Monitoring and reporting of projects
 - Financial auditing of project including TORs for auditors, quality assessment of auditors and audit report

Progress as of To-date in Harmonization

- GOP took initiative to create a Committee on Harmonization, chaired by Usec, DOF, comprising DOF, NEDA, DBM and COA
- Purpose of the Committee is to play an anchor role and work closely with donors on the harmonization agenda.

Progress as of To-date in Harmonization

- Further, mechanisms were established to create working groups on
 - procurement
 - financial management and audit
 - Annually High-level GOP-donor ODA Portfolio Review Meetings
 - Joint Quarterly Technical-level GOP-donor ODA Portfolio Review Meetings

Progress as of To-date in Harmonization

- Specifically, on procurement:
 - IRR-a for NCB was issued following the revised GOP Procurement Reform Act
 - IRR-b is still being worked out
 - Harmonized SBDs for NCB for goods and works have been prepared
 - The harmonized SBDs are expected to be issued soon by GOP for implementation by all ODA projects.

Progress as of To-date in Harmonization

- For FM, significant progress has been made in technical works for harmonization with participation of COA on auditing
- It cannot proceed further due to lack of GOP's appointing a focal counterpart and necessary administrative support
- ODA WG wrote to Sec. DOF to follow up and enable implementation of developed components


Progress as of To-date in Harmonization

- Annual High-level ODA Portfolio Review provided a very useful forum
- To address cross-cutting issues in most of the harmonization areas
- The one scheduled for 2003 did not take place due to the event of 2003 CG meeting in Nov.
- It has been further postponed due to the election in 2004

Progress as of To-date in Harmonization

- Quarterly ODA TWG Portfolio Review provided a more frequent and interactive opportunity for ODA partners and GOP
- To address generic and sector specific issues and agree on fact-track mitigation
- It provides real-time opportunity for harmonization
- It amplifies impacts and outputs of donor coordination and policy dialogue

Progress as of To-date in Harmonization



- It provides wider range harmonization also in areas of land acquisition and resettlement, environment and resource management

To Move Forward



- We need to improve our interventions with more results orientation for greater improvement in effectiveness and efficiency of development impacts
- More focus on building implementation capacity to ensure competent agencies are accounted for higher quality implementation of harmonized procedures and use of harmonized results to best serve purposes of improving effectiveness

To Move Forward.....



- More active participation of government oversight and executing agencies should be emphasized and assured
- The harmonization can be further enhanced and more productive in government takes stronger ownership and play more leading roles in the process

To Move Forward



- Set-up of various working groups is a critical condition to facilitate and expedite progress of harmonization, and implementation of harmonized results
- Not in all cases, government appointed working groups and focal personnel as counterpart in a timely manner, which delays progress in harmonization

To Move Forward



- Lastly, more simplified and efficient working procedures are needed for more effective and timely coordination among aide agencies and government
- So as to ensure the envisaged results delivered within the expected timeframe for implementation and achievement of results

*We will keep it up for better
effectiveness and efficiency*



Thank you very much