

PRIMEX News

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A Quarterly Newsletter

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TNA findings on sustainable watershed management validated to ensure realistic training



Dr. Rafael Creencia, Agroforestry and Small and Medium Enterprise Specialist, answers questions from participants regarding the capacity development project.

ADB has awarded a consulting contract to PRIMEX in association with training firm, Associated Resources for Management and Development (ARMDEV).

Dr. Manuel Bonita (Team Leader/ Watershed Management Specialist), Ms. Elda Montera (Training Specialist), Dr. Rafael Creencia (Agroforestry and Small and Medium Enterprise Specialist), and Engr. Clovis Ike Payumo (Rural Infrastructure Management Specialist) presented and discussed with stakeholders the draft of the capacity building framework and master training plan. Participants affirmed the following top five priorities for capacity development:

The consultant team of ADB's Decentralized Framework for Sustainable Natural Resources and Rural Infrastructure Management (TA 7716-PHI) validated the results of the capacity needs assessment at a workshop last 16 November 2011 at the Bukidnon Provincial Planning Development Office (PPDO) in the capital town of Malaybalay. The feedback from 49 participants from some 20 municipalities in Bukidnon will enhance the design of the training packages which have been developed to respond to stakeholders' needs.

The project will support capacity development in the regional and provincial Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) offices, participating local government units (LGUs), and communities in Bukidnon with the aim of increasing rural household income based on natural resources management (NRM).

1. **Watershed planning and management** with combined climate change impact assessment and adaptation, disaster management, community organizing, and biodiversity development and management;
2. **Agro-forestry and livelihood development** considering existing and potential industries in the watersheds and with strong emphasis on business management;
3. **Infrastructure planning and management** including infrastructure planning and design for pre-, actual, and post- construction work program, infrastructure management with gender and indigenous people (IP),

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SEARCA's EU-FPAVAS project beneficiary casting nets during the initial harvesting of whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) located in San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro. A total of 660 kilos of Vannemei were harvested last 25 June 2011.
(Photo Credit: SEARCA)

Consultant assists EU in monitoring food facility projects in the Philippines

PRIMEX has assisted the European Commission (EC) Delegation in the Philippines in the field monitoring of its Food Facility-funded projects and activities across the country, which were implemented by various partners.

Findings and recommendations resulting from the monitoring were submitted to EC last October 2011 by PRIMEX's international consultant, Mr. Reynaldo de Sagun.

Mr. de Sagun's field monitoring consisted of discussions with project beneficiaries and project managers of implementing partners nationwide, including the following:

- *Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA)* for its Food Production Assistance for Vulnerable Sectors (FPAVAS);
- *Plan International*, which implemented the productive capacity improvement of civil society groups in the Philippine agricultural sector and establishment of safety net measures against volatile food prices;
- *Care International*, which implemented the Making Safe Food Available and Accessible to Rural Poor Households in the Philippines Project;
- *International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)* for its Rapid Food Production Enhancement Project;
- *GIZ*, which implemented the EFOS Project in Leyte and Southern Leyte;
- *World Food Program (WFP)* with projects in support of conflict-affected populations in Mindanao and expansion of food-for-assets activities and establishment of vulnerability assessment mapping capacity at the national level;
- *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*, which has a project on Increasing Rice Yield and Productivity through promotion of on-farm water management and small-scale irrigation in rainfed areas;
- and *Agriterro*, which implemented the Farmers and Fisherfolk for Food Project.

Beneficiaries of said projects were the poorest and most vulnerable sector of the community. They have the most difficult access to food, especially in periods of high prices. The criteria used in their selection included poverty incidence and malnutrition rate obtained from government agencies like the National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB) and local offices of health and social welfare. Techniques like wealth ranking, poverty survey index, and house visits were also used in the selection of the beneficiaries.



Surie Alip (KM Specialist) and Maurice Knight (CTSP) pose beside the portal's banner during the launch (left); Abbie Trinidad, ADB representatives Marilou Drilon, Jon Lindborg (Country Director, Indonesia Resident Mission), Bruce Dunn (RSD), Elvira Ablaza (RETA Project Director), Devy Suradji (WWF-Indonesia), and Dr Efransjah (CEO of WWF-Indonesia) during the CTI Welcome Dinner (right)

Knowledge Management Team launches portal for the Coral Triangle Initiative

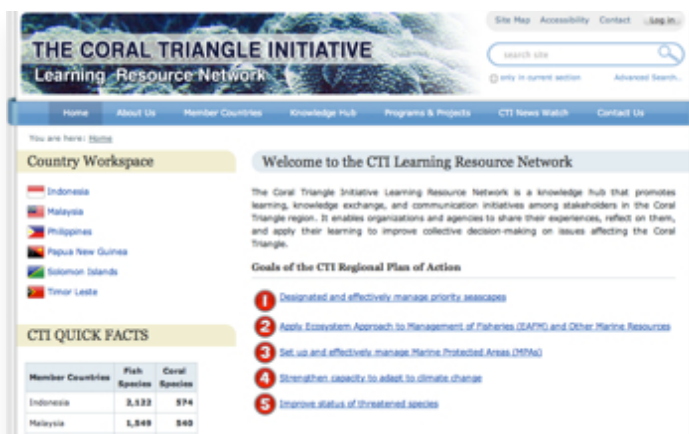
Five team members from the Knowledge Management for the Coral Triangle Initiative (RETA 7307), led by PRIMEX Project Director, Ms. Elvira Ablaza, and Ms. Annabelle Trinidad, Team Leader, attended the CTI 7th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM7) as observers. The meeting was held at the Sari Pan Pacific Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia from 24-28 October 2011.

The other members of the CTI KM Team were Ms. Surie Alip (Knowledge Management and Communication Specialist), Ms. Lydia Napitupulu (Junior Resource Economist), and Egide Cantin (Finance Expert).

The project launched the Coral Triangle Learning Resource Network (CTI-LRN)

www.coraltriangleinitiative.net/ during the welcome dinner on 27 October 2011. Minister John Moffat Fugui of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management, and Meteorology of Solomon Islands presented the portal which serves as a knowledge hub for the CT6.

It aims to promote collective learning and knowledge exchange in the CTI; provides resources on knowledge management, payment for ecosystem services, sustainable financing, decision



The Coral Triangle Learning Resource Network can be accessed at www.coraltriangleinitiative.net

support systems, and the State of the Coral Triangle Report; and has links to CTI sites of the National Coordinating Committees and to knowledge resources of GEF International Waters learning community.

Click [here](#) to read more articles regarding SOM7 and other project activities from the CT-LRN website.

PRIMEX EVP engaged to review effectiveness of GEF-funded interventions

PRIMEX Executive Vice President, Mr. Guillermo L. Morales, has been tapped by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to review the continued relevance, efficiency levels, and effectiveness of the Global Environment Fund (GEF)-funded components and activities of the ADB loan-funded Integrated Coastal Resources Management Project (ICRMP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Mr. Morales will use the GEF evaluation tools in assessing the extent of progress, relevance, suitability, impact, and effectiveness of the strategies, project design and management, implementation methodologies, communication and other related activities, and assess the likelihood of achieving the project's objectives upon project completion.

He will review the recalculated financial and economic internal rate of return of the Project based on updated costs and benefits and calculate distribution of benefits. He will also make recommendations on potential partial loan cancellation and corresponding adjustments in project implementation (e.g., scaling down or up of activities/components, accommodating DENR's request for additional activities related to the National Greening Program, geographic coverage, and the design and monitoring framework [DMF]).

Mr Morales is expected to complete his review activities by 14 December 2011. His findings and recommendations will provide inputs to the mid-term evaluation of Global Environment Fund (GEF) funded components and activities.

Mr. Morales, who first joined PRIMEX as a consultant in 1999, was appointed Executive Vice President in January of this year. For over 10 years, he was based in Indonesia as PRIMEX's Team Leader in two consecutive ADB loan-funded natural resource management projects of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF).

His latest ADB engagement was as Rural Development and Finance Specialist/Team Leader for the ADB/Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR)-funded Developing Sustainable Livelihoods in Coastal Fishing Communities in Coastal Fishing Communities in the Coral Triangle for Indonesia and the Philippines from May to August 2010.



Mr. Morales has been tasked by ADB to evaluate how well the ICRMP is progressing vis-a-vis its goal of working towards sustainable management and higher income for coastal communities.

TNA findings on sustainable watershed...

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climate change, GIS, and community participation considerations;

4. **Governance and mainstreaming** with focus on leadership and organizational development, conflict resolution and partnership management, IP, gender, GIS, and community participation; and
5. **Project development and management with resource mobilization** to ensure that identified projects are implemented as scheduled.

Participants also recommended using different approaches in capacity development to match their needs. For mayors, they suggested study tours and benchmark governance practices' sharing as an effective approach. Planning and technical groups need training in watershed planning and management with

mainstreaming of gender and IP, GIS, climate change adaptation, and community participation considerations. They also requested training in project development and resource mobilization as well as documentation of best practices, social marketing, and communication.

The NGOs and the private sector need capacity building in networking, strengthening corporate responsibility, program/project management, and promoting community participation in development. Finally, IPs and women's associations will need training in awareness building activities, social preparation, watershed management training, agro-forestry/livelihood, and waste recycling project development with study tours for benchmarking, capital formation, resource mobilization, and market development.

NICE workshop opens options to improve exclusive breastfeeding and better nutrition improvement practices

The Nutrition Improvement for Community Empowerment Project (NICE) CPMU successfully organized a Review and Consultative Workshop in the city of Batam on 1 -4 November 2011. The workshop was designed to review the implementation of the project from 1 January–31 October 2011 and to use the results of the assessment to position the Project towards higher levels of performance in the coming year.

More than 80 project and program staff from the six NICE provinces and 24 districts participated in the workshop. In addition, three consultants from the NICE Project Consultant Team (PRIMEX and TIA) and five from the Central Project Management Unit (CPMU) were on hand to help facilitate and moderate the discussions. Dr. Hidayat, Director of Health and Nutrition Directorate from BAPPENAS (the Indonesian National Planning Agency) and Dr. Rooswanti Soewarno, Social Sector Officer from the ADB Indonesia Resident Mission (IRM) were the guests of honor.

The Project Consultant Team provided technical inputs which served to jumpstart the discussions during the workshop. Dr. Jose Rodriguez, Team Leader and Policy and Institutions Specialist, presented the current status of performance of the provinces and districts with respect to the project's major targets and performance indicators.

Prof. Abdul Razak Thaha, national Institutional Development Specialist, discussed options for improving exclusive breastfeeding practices, utilization of iron tablets by pregnant women, and household use of iodized salt. Ms Adriyani Adam of the city of Makassar, South Sulawesi province presented the results of a data utilization initiative designed by the consultants from PRIMEX and TIA.

Based on the reaction from the participants, the review and consultative workshop succeeded in positioning the project towards the achievement of the Project's objectives in 2012.



Program staff from six provinces and 24 districts sharing their input during the review of the implementation of the Nutrition Improvement for Community Empowerment (NICE) project.

Four PRIMEX managers earn diplomas in Applied MBA

Four PRIMEX top and mid-level management officers earned their Diploma of Completion in Applied Master of Business Administration (AMBA) from the Executive Development Academy in Makati City last September 2011 as part of the company's ongoing staff development program.

“Given the short period of time, the program taught me how to apply fundamental techniques in business management, particularly in actually implementing it in the work field.”

- Therese Loyloy, Manager, Technical Services and Business Development

Senior Manager for Finance and Administration, Ms. Yolanda Francisco, and Senior Manager for Technical Services and Business Development, Ms. Therese Loyloy, were among the latest batch of graduates from EDA. Among those in the earlier batch were Senior Vice-President, Ms. Ma. Lourdes Sumilang, and Executive Vice-President, Mr. Guillermo Morales.

“The course is very useful for our consulting business. We learned management, marketing, finance, accounting, and personnel management in the said course in just 20 hours. Our teachers were real entrepreneurs,” shared Ms. Francisco.

EDA takes pride in offering what it calls ‘the only business-based MBA Program that

delivers the kind of expertise that business firms expect from MBA graduates.’

“Given the short period of time, the program taught me how to apply fundamental techniques in business management, particularly in actually implementing it in the work field,” said Ms. Loyloy. “It’s theory and practice easily put together.”

AMBA, as EDA states on their brochure, is a special program which took three years to prepare – from conceptualization to continuous research, evaluation and refinement. The aim is to produce a new breed of managers who have the mindset of an entrepreneur: one who is focused on business survival, profitability, and long-term growth.



Ms. Ma. Lourdes Sumilang



Mr. Guillermo Morales



Ms. Therese Loyloy



Ms. Yolanda Francisco

Dr. Sison to write report of ADB's employment skills training project in Maldives

PRIMEX Director Dr Jerome F. Sison will assist the ADB in preparing ADB's Project Completion Report for its Employment Skills Training Project in Maldives (Loan 2028-MLD).

The \$6.3M loan project was designed to assist the country make better use of its human resources potential by increasing the number of Maldivians actively participating in the labor force. It sought to provide employment-oriented skills training in various occupations to make prospective Maldivian employees more attractive to employers. In the process, it aimed to strengthen in-country capacity to deliver competency-based skills training.

The project started on 6 August 2004 with the Maldives Ministry of Finance and Treasury as executing agency and the Ministry of Human Resources, Youth and Sports (changed to Ministry of Education recently) as implementing agency.

The training in the Project was delivered in three regions, namely: Malé island and adjacent atolls, the Northern Development Region, and the Southern Development Region. It had three components: (i) increasing access to good quality employment-oriented skills training; (ii) social marketing and improving career guidance and awareness of employment opportunities; and (iii) capacity

strengthening of the Ministry of Higher Education, Employment and Social Security (MHEESS). The five-week consultancy started this November 2011 and will culminate with the submission of the PCR on 28 December 2011. The PCR is scheduled to be finalized by the end of March 2012.



Dr. Sison is an economist and financial analyst with a wealth of experience in the planning, design, and evaluation of development projects across sectors, including agriculture, fisheries and coastal resource management, irrigation and water management, and the social sectors. Since 1983, he has completed a total of 63 assignments in China, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

LGU performance on procurement, financial management under Health Sector Reform Program validated

PRIMEX completed and submitted its First Assessment and Verification Report on the reported performance of provincial local government units (LGUs) on their financial management and procurement practices as targeted under the World Bank/European Union-assisted Health Sector Reform Project (HSRP).

The amendment to the HSRP in 2007 led to the expansion of its coverage to include the provision of local health system reform grants to the provinces of ARMM, Isabela City, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Lanao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, and Compostela Valley. More financing for these areas were then provided vis-à-vis their Province-wide Investment Plans for Health (PIPHs).

A recent appraisal of the HSRP, however, presented concerns about the fiduciary management and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capability of these new areas. Performance reports submitted by LGUs needed to be evaluated and authenticated by an independent third party because they would form the basis for them to access available grants. PRIMEX had won the bid to verify LGUs' reported data on behalf of the World Bank.

LGU performances were evaluated based on their: (i) deliverables in their service level agreements (SLAs), (ii) planned inputs in their annual operations plans (AOPs) and provincial or regional IPHs, and (iii) financial and procurement management performance in the selected Project sites.

The first assessment report submitted on 31 October 2011 focused on the financial and procurement management system performance of a sample of the above Project areas in Mindanao. Another round of verifications is being undertaken to cover the LGU scorecards.

A list of recommended actions that need to be undertaken to improve financial and procurement management under the Project was among the highlights of the Report. Dr. Florante Magboo, Team Leader and PRIMEX's Vice President for Technical Services and Business Development, earlier led the consultant team in prioritizing the conduct of various batches of trainings for the field auditors (FAs) and regional coordinators (RCs) in the surveyed provinces.



PRIMEX projects stick to Global Compact principles

PRIMEX projects continue to demonstrate their adherence to the principles of the Global Compact by instituting core values either in the design and implementation of development projects it has won from various multilateral financial institutions or through its in-house staff activities.

As one of the firm's core areas of expertise, environmental management remains PRIMEX's area of operation where Global Compact principles are mostly reflected. For example, the Sustainable Natural Resources and Rural Infrastructure Management Project, which the company is implementing for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Bukidnon, Southern Philippines, not only promotes greater environmental responsibility and accountability among local government units (LGUs) in the area, it also ensures that human rights of indigenous peoples in the area are rightly protected in the process of pursuing capacity development for LGUs and similar stakeholders.

Its growing involvement in protecting the marine environment has created a momentum of awareness among the international community after it led the implementation of an ADB project on Regional Cooperation on Knowledge Management, Policy, and Institutional Support to the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI).

PRIMEX also established a non-profit organization which hosts many of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects—the PRIMEX Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD). The organization has served as a development catalyst, field-level development facilitator, or a conduit of donor assistance to community-based organizations (CBOs) or people's organizations (POs) and has so far implemented projects on (i) policy review and formulation, (ii) governance and empowerment, (iii) participatory resource management, (iv) community development, and (v) capacity building of NGOs involved in HIV and AIDS.

The recently-concluded Enhancement of Food Security in the Visayas (EFOZ) project for the German development agency GIZ (formerly GTZ) reflected the firm's promotion of the principles of human rights specifically indigenous peoples (IP) rights, environment, and governance. The project aimed to sustainably increase food security and agricultural, fisheries and forestry productivity in the target region and beyond through (i) cash-for-work measures for social rural infrastructure projects to directly inject cash into poor rural households and to stimulate local economies; (ii) assistance to projects aiming at directly increasing agricultural, fisheries, and forestry production and productivity; and (iii) promotion of crop insurance schemes. The parametric crop insurance targets at least 5,000 farm households in Leyte.

The project promoted a sense of volunteerism of members of the community, developed new skills for farmer- organizations, such as on construction (rip-rapping and hollow block making), set up a revolving fund for the farmers as initiated by the LGU, promoted a new technology in using hybrid/certified rice, organic fertilizer, raised the appreciation of farmers on the value of crop insurance, and increased environmental awareness on children/family.

In the health sector, PRIMEX's projects have focused on the prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases, particularly avian and pandemic influenza, and environmental health in a prospective copper-gold mining project in Mindanao. PRIMEX's support to Global Compact environmental Principles 8 and 9 stood out in the firm's involvement in Transport Corridor Project in Kazakhstan, where resettlement concerns were addressed in order to protect the rights of the communities who will be displaced as a result of the infrastructure project.

MEET THE PRIMEX STAFF



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Standing L-R: **Mr. Ruel Sanita** (Messenger), **Mr. George Castaneda** (Driver), **Ms. Khristine Joy Tan** (Senior Finance and Administration Assistant), **Ms. Mary Joy Love Ortiz** (Technical Services Assistant), **Ms. Lina Cedano** (Administrative Assistant), **Ms. Lourdes Margarita Caballero** (Senior Technical Services Assistant), **Ms. Janice Bartolomeo** (Junior Accountant), **Ms. Normita Ibe** (Technical Services Assistant), **Ms. Aiza Dumlao** (Technical Services Assistant), **Mr. Neilzon Sanita** (Messenger), and **Mr. Eduardo De Vera** (Driver).

Seated L-R: **Ms. Therese Loyloy** (Senior Manager, Technical Services and Business Development), **Ms. Ma. Lourdes Sumilang** (Senior Vice President), **Mr. Guillermo Morales** (Executive Vice President), **Ms. Elvira Ablaza** (President and CEO), **Dr. Florante Mambo** (Vice President), **Ms. Yolanda Francisco** (Senior Manager, Finance and Administration), and **Mr. Leo Pura** (Senior Manager, Project Operations)



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