Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Philippines End-of-Term Report 2015-2017

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Overview: Philippines

Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) End-of-Term Report 2015-2017

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) successful transitioned the implementation of the third national action plan to the new administration, securing support from the incoming leadership of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Progress was made on almost all 13 commitments. Six commitments were assessed as having a "major" contribution to opening government. However, the main challenges of broadening effective citizen engagement and enhancing accountability remains.

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a voluntary international initiative that aims to secure commitments from governments to their citizenry to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) carries out a review of the activities of each OGP-participating country.
This report summarizes the results of the period June 2016 to May 2017 and includes some relevant developments up to September 2017.
The OGP process in the Philippines is led by a Steering Committee made up of representatives from government, civil society, and the business community, serving as the consultation and coordination forum on the status and implementation of action plan commitments. The OGP secretariat, housed in the Department of Budget and Management, has coordinated implementation and served as the communication center for the Steering Committee. Civil society groups were involved in both developing and implementing the action plan.

In 2016 a Civil Society Secretariat was formed to support the involvement of civil society in OGP. The commitments made in the third national action plan of the Philippines build on the gains of the second national action plan. Nine of the commitments are continuing and four are new. Three of the new commitments) are geared towards contributing to improved public services: a feedback mechanism called the Anti-Red Tape Act-Report Card Survey program, a local government competitiveness index, and initiative to encourage community participation in local development planning. The fourth new commitment the Integrity

Table 1: At a Glance

	Midterm	*End of term*
Number of Commitments	13	
Level of Completion		
Completed	*1*	*6*
Substantial	*9*	*4*
Limited	*3*	*3*
Not Started	*0*	*0*
Number of Commitments with…		
Clear Relevance to OGP Values	*10*	
Transformative Potential Impact	*0*	
Substantial or Complete Implementation	*10*	*10*
All Three (□)	*0*	*0*
Did It Open government?		
Major	7	
Outstanding	0	
Moving Forward		
Number of Commitments Carried Over to Next Action Plan	5	

This report was prepared by Joy Aceron, G-Watch/ Accountability Research Center

Initiative, aimed to contribute to improving corporate accountability. The change in administration in June 2016 posed unique challenges that had to be grappled with. Mainly through the effort of civil society members of the Steering Committee, the new government committed to continue engaging with the OGP with a similar institutional arrangement.

The 2015-2017 national action plan for the Philippines provided more spaces for citizens to participate, made information more accessible to the public, and engaged a broader set of stakeholders on issues affecting ordinary citizens and key governance concerns.

The Philippine-OGP (PH-OGP) published an end-of-term self-assessment report on 9 October 2017. This was open for public comments from 18 September to 2 October 2017.

201-2019 OGP Action Plan

In August 2017, PH-OGP launched the fourth national action plan (2017-2019)[1]. Five of its commitments are a continuation of past commitments: Commitment 3: improve the Ease of Doing Business ranking; Commitment 4: expand and institutionalize the Citizen Participatory Audit commitment; Commitment 5: engage and empower citizenry, through an effective government feedback mechanism; Commitment 6: pass legislation on access to information; Commitment 9: improve transparency and accountability in the extractives industries.

Four commitments in the latest action plan are new: Commitment 2: engage communities in the fight against corruption, criminality, and illegal drugs; Commitment 10: improve the institutional mechanisms for immediate and effective disaster response; Commitment 11: improve public service delivery by capacitating informal settler families and resettled families through a Community Organizing and Community Development approach; and Commitment 12: institutionalize the Open Local Legislative process.

Finally, three commitments made in the latest action plan are not entirely new but have changed substantially from their predecessors: Commitment1: Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities is a partial continuation to Bottom-up Budgeting, with a focus on municipalities and using a different civil society participation mechanism; Commitment 7: Promoting e-Participation tools through the National Government Portal, enhancing the Open Data commitment and Commitment 8: Increase public integrity and more effectively manage public resources by implementing budget transparency (budget partnership and full disclosure are past commitments that also involve budget transparency).

[1] PH-OGP "Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) National Action Plan 2017-2019." Accessed May 3 2018. https://www.opengovpartnership.org/sites/default/files/Philippines_%20Action-Plan_2017-2019.pdf.

Consultation with Civil Society during Implementation

Countries participating in OGP follow a process for consultation during development and implementation of their action plan.

The Steering Committee held consultations with civil society during the implementation of the PH-OGP through regular meetings and quarterly workshop assessments. Three Steering Committee meetings and 12 national and local consultative activities took place from June 2016 to May 2017. The Civil Society Secretariat supported civil society members of the Steering Committee to take the lead in convening some of these consultations to generate feedback from the stakeholders. Marianne Fabian, a member of the Secretariat, reported on the efforts of the Secretariat to convene the commitment holders, get and provide updates, and broaden and diversify participation.[1] Marianne also noted the challenges posed by the political transition, which were also raised in the end-of-term self-assessment report: "Political transition is a reality that must be faced by all government and non-government actors working on open government reforms. This should always be considered when developing and implementing national open government action plans."[2]

While there had been numerous consultations with various stakeholders, the influence of the public remains on the level of "consult" (per the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) standard) which stands for "The public could give inputs." The end-of-term self-assessment report documents efforts to raise public attention on OGP: "There is little to low awareness of the Philippine OGP among ordinary citizens[…] The online consultation platform has been ineffective…"[3] As commitments have been set, inputs from the public and civil society could no longer influence the agenda. Nonetheless, civil society members of the Steering Committee were able to give feedback on the implementation of the commitments, which according to interviews conducted, were considered by concerned government offices during implementation.[4]

Table 2: Consultation during Implementation

Regular Multistakeholder Forum	Midterm	End of Term
1. Did a forum exist?	Yes	Yes
2. Did it meet regularly?	Yes	Yes

Table 3: Level of Public Influence during Implementation

IAP2: Level of Public Influence during Implementation of Action Plan		Midterm	End of Term
Empower	The government handed decision-making power to members of the public.		
Collaborate	There was iterative dialogue AND the public helped set the agenda.		
Involve	The public could give feedback on how commitments were considered.		
Consult	The public could give inputs.	X	X
Inform	The government provided the public with information on the action plan.		
No Consultation	No consultation		

[1] Marian Fabian. In Documentation Report. Roundtable discussion on 'Did it Open Government' organized by Government Watch. October 12, 2017.
[2] PH-OGP End-of-Term Self-Assessment Report. October 9, 2017.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Aceron, Joy. 2017. Philippines Progress Report, 2015-2017. Open Government Partnership Independent Reporting Mechanism.

About the Assessment

The indicators and method used in the IRM research can be found in the IRM Procedures Manual.[1] One measure, the "starred commitment" (✪), deserves further explanation due to its particular interest to readers and usefulness for encouraging a race to the top among OGP-participating countries. Starred commitments are considered exemplary OGP commitments. To receive a star, a commitment must meet several criteria:

- Starred commitments will have "medium" or "high" specificity. A commitment must lay out clearly defined activities and steps to make a judgment about its potential impact.
- The commitment's language should make clear its relevance to opening government. Specifically, it must relate to at least one of the OGP values of Access to Information, Civic Participation, or Public Accountability.
- The commitment would have a "transformative" potential impact if completely implemented.[2]
- The government must make significant progress on this commitment during the action plan implementation period, receiving an assessment of "substantial" or "complete" implementation.

Starred commitments can lose their starred status if their completion falls short of substantial or full completion at the end of the action plan implementation period.

In the Midterm report, the Philippine action plan contained no starred commitments. At the end-of-term, based on the changes in the level of completion, the Philippine action plan does not contain starred commitments.

Finally, the tables in this section present an excerpt of the wealth of data the IRM collects during its reporting process. For the full dataset for the Philippines, see the OGP Explorer at www.opengovpartnership.org/explorer.

About "Did It Open Government?"

To capture changes in government practice the IRM introduced a new variable "Did It Open Government?" in end-of-term reports. This variable attempts to move beyond measuring outputs and deliverables to looking at how the government practice has changed as a result of the commitment's implementation.

As written, some OGP commitments are vague and/or not clearly relevant to OGP values but achieve significant policy reforms. In other cases, commitments as written appear relevant and ambitious, but fail to open government as implemented. The "Did It Open Government" variable attempts to captures these subtleties.

The "Did It Open Government?" variable assesses changes in government practice using the following spectrum:

- Worsened: Government openness worsens as a result of the commitment.
- Did not change: No changes in government practice.
- Marginal: Some change, but minor in terms of its effect on level of openness.
- Major: A step forward for government openness in the relevant policy area, but remains limited in scope or scale.
- Outstanding: A reform that has transformed "business as usual" in the relevant policy area by opening government.

To assess this variable, researchers establish the status quo at the outset of the action plan. They then assess outcomes *as implemented* for changes in government openness.

Readers should keep in mind limitations. IRM end-of-term reports are prepared only a few months after the implementation cycle is completed. The variable focuses on outcomes that can be observed in government openness practices at the end of the two-year

implementation period. The report and the variable do not intend to assess impact because of the complex methodological implications and the time frame of the report.

[1] IRM Procedures Manual, http://www.opengovpartnership.org/about/about-irm
[2] The International Experts Panel changed this criterion in 2015. For more information, visit http://www.opengovpartnership.org/node/5919.

Commitment Implementation

General Overview of Commitments

As part of OGP, countries are required to make commitments in a two-year action plan. The tables below summarize the completion level at the end of term and progress on the "Did It Open Government?" metric. For commitments that were complete at the Midterm, the report will provide a summary of the progress report findings but focus on analysis of the 'Did It Open Government?' variable. For further details on these commitments, please see the Philippines IRM progress report 2015-2017.

The Philippine OGP organizes the third national action plan according to the OGP Challenges.

The four commitments that increase public integrity by enhancing transparency include:

- Commitment 1: Law on access to information
- Commitment 2: Transparency of local governments plans and budgets
- Commitment 3: Open Data
- Commitment 4: Extractive Industries' Transparency

The three commitments that enhance public integrity by expanding spaces for citizen engagements include:

- Commitment 5: CSO engagement in public audit
- Commitment 6: CSO participation in local poverty reduction budget planning
- Commitment 12: Public-private sector dialogue on Inclusive Growth

Finally, the five commitments that contribute to improving public services (three of which are new and two are continuing) include:

- Commitment 7: Community participation in local development planning
- Commitment 8: Feedback mechanism to improve public service delivery
- Commitment 9: Assessing local governments' performance
- Commitment 10: Improve the ease of doing business
- Commitment 11: Local government competitiveness

Finally, one commitment aims to increase corporate accountability: the Integrity Initiative (Commitment 13).

Table 4: Assessment of Progress by Commitment

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Midterm / End-of-Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
1. Law on		✓			✓					✓				✓					✓		

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Midterm / End-of-Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
Access to Information														✓							
2. Transparent local government plans and budget				✓	✓						✓				✓					✓	
															✓						
3. Open Data			✓		✓						✓				✓				✓		
															✓						
4. Extractives Industries' Transparency Initiative			✓		✓	✓					✓				✓						
																✓				✓	
5. CSO engagement in public audit			✓			✓	✓				✓				✓						
																✓				✓	
6. CSO participation in local poverty reduction budget planning				✓	✓	✓					✓				✓					✓	
																✓					
7. Community participation in local development planning			✓			✓					✓				✓						
															✓					✓	
8. Feedback			✓			✓	✓				✓				✓					✓	

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Midterm / End-of-Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
mechanism to improve public delivery																✓					
9. Enhance performance benchmarks for local governance				✓			✓				✓				✓					✓	
																✓					
10. Ease of Doing Business		✓			Unclear						✓				✓				✓		
															✓						
11. Local Government Competitiveness				✓	✓			✓		✓						✓			✓		
																✓					
12. Public-Private Sector Dialogue on Inclusive Growth		✓			Unclear					✓				✓					✓		
														✓							
13. Integrity Initiative			✓		Unclear						✓			✓				✓			
														✓							

Commitment 1. Law on Access to Information

Commitment Text:
The main objective is to pass an access to information law. Passage of the current Freedom of Information bill will mandate the disclosure of government information to the general public. The Freedom of Information (FOI) bill is crucial to institutionalize transparency since it will mandate the disclosure of public documents, as well as the procedures for accessing these documents. Passage of the FOI bill will ensure that government efforts on transparency become the norm and can make government more open as disclosure of public data will be institutionalized.

Milestones:

Organize, through Philippine OGP, Roundtable Discussions/Workshops on the substantive provisions of the FOI bill with pilot agencies as part of mainstreaming of FOI and confidence building relating thereto preparatory to the implementation of the FOI Act by 2015.

Responsible institution: Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office (access to information)

Supporting institution(s): Congress, Presidential Legislative Liaison Office; Right to Know Right Now Coalition

Start date: 1 January 2015

End date: 2016

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion			Midterm / End-of-Term	Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
1. Law on Access to Information		✓			✓					✓				✓					✓		
														✓							

Commitment Aim

This commitment aimed to contribute to the passage of the Freedom of Information (FOI) law and address the continuing challenge of access to, and use of, high-quality and relevant information. This was to be done by convening roundtable discussions and workshops, which would have served as consensus-building processes to move the access to information agenda forward.

Status

Midterm: Limited

As of May 2016, the Philippines made limited progress toward this commitment. The Executive, mainly through the Department of Budget and Management and the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office (the responsible agency), was unsuccessful in its push for the FOI law, which was not passed by Congress.

On 20 August 2015, the Right to Know Right Now (RKRN) coalition announced its withdrawal from the Steering Committee, "putting the blame squarely on President Aquino (and the leadership of the House of Representatives)…for not mustering the political will to honor his campaign pact with the people to assure the passage of FOI."[1] While FOI bill was discussed in Steering Committee meetings, and in other civil society meetings, this did not impact the legislative process.

End-of-term: Limited

On 23 June 2016, the government passed an FOI executive order that operationalized the people's constitutional right to information.[2] By June 2017, the government had made progress toward passing FOI by securing sponsorship and committee-level approval. The government also begun to promote FOI, including releasing an FOI manual, launching an online portal for lodging requests, and publishing a report by the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO).[3,4] According to the self-assessment report, the government considers this commitment to be substantially completed. However, the FOI bill was not included in the list of common priority bills released by the president and Congress in August 2017.[5] IRM has marked this commitment as limited because the bill's passage remains pending, its status in Congress is uncertain, and the president's support is vague.

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Marginal

The government has taken steps to address its lack of transparency and to provide citizens with addition opportunities for accessing information. This includes passing the Executive Order, publishing the FOI manual, and launching the online portal for FOI. However, it remains to be seen whether these will make a difference in citizens' access to and use of information. Officials in the Executive's FOI program pointed out that securing the participation of other agencies had been a problem: "There are some agencies that feel that the information they disclose have some kind of intellectual property ownership," said Kris Ablan, Assistant Secretary of the Executive's FOI program.[6] The Philippine Center of Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) has reported mixed results when filing requests through the online portal: out of 503 requests filed between late November and mid-March 2017, 183 requests were denied, 166 granted, and154 were pending as of 17 March 2017.[7] According to PCIJ, requests were responded to according to whether the requested information was filed with the correct agency and if the agency providing the information was enrolled in the FOI program.[8] So far, only 64 of 200 agencies have enrolled in the program.[9] However, a PCOO report from15 June 2017 claimed, "108 agencies are on-boarded in the FOI portal 16 departments, 74 NGAs and 18 GOCCs."[10]

Other recent reports put the state of access to information in negative light. For example, the National Police refused to provide the Commission on Human Rights access to reports detailing alleged cases of extrajudicial killing without the approval of the president.[11] Another example has been the redaction by the government in the Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net-worth (SALN) of some of the members of the Cabinet.[12] As stated above, the fact that the FOI law is not among the president's priority bills is another indication that the bill may not be passed.

Carried Forward?

This commitment has been carried over to the next action plan. The aim of the new commitment is to pass FOI legislation, though the deliverables include continued implementation of the FOI Executive Order and the use of online portal. The IRM researcher recommends that the other deliverables and actions are linked to the legislation through a concerted that draws attention to the limits of practice due to absence of an FOI law. Stakeholders from all levels need to put pressure on the president and on Congress to prioritize FOI. This includes the media, civil society, government agencies, and ordinary citizens. Ultimately, this commitment can only be judged as completed if the FOI law is passed.

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[1] Right to Know Right Now. "The FOI Bill is Dead." Statement released on 20 August 2015.
[2] Executive Order on Freedom of Information http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/07/23/executive-order-no-02-s-2016/.
[3] PH-OGP End-of-Term Self-Assessment Report. October 9, 2017. https://www.opengovpartnership.org/sites/default/files/Philippines_End-of_Term_Self-Assessment_2015-2017.pdf.
[4] Mid-year Report on the implementation of Executive Order (EO) No. 02, s. 2016 or the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program in the Executive Branch. https://www.foi.gov.ph/resources.
[5] Palace, Congress agree on target bills. 31 August 2017. BusinessWorld. http://bworldonline.com/palace-congress-agree-target-bills/.
[6] Some gov't agencies still 'reluctant' to grant public access to information: Palace official. June 30, 2017. Abs-Cbn News. http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/30/17/some-govt-agencies-still-reluctant-to-grant-public-access-to-information-palace-official.
[7] The Philippine Center of Investigative Journalism FOI requests http://pcij.org/stories/183-denied-166-granted-154-pending/.
[8] Ibid
[9] Ibid
[10] Mid-year Review of the Implimentation of FOI https://www.foi.gov.ph/downloads/FOI_REPORT_six_months.pdf.
[11] Duterte unlikely to give CHR access to case folders. 9 September 2017. Inquirer.net. http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/929081/philippine-news-updates-commission-on-human-rights-president-duterte-drug-killings.
[12] Redactions in Duterte Cabinet's latest SALNs 'deal-breaker' for FOI – PCIJ. 22 September 2017. Rappler. https://www.rappler.com/nation/183046-redactions-cabinet-members-saln-deal-breaker-foi-pcij.

Commitment 2. Transparent local government plans and budgets

Commitment Text:

- *Uninformed local government constituents on how the local budget is managed, disbursed and utilized*
- *There is a need to create ways on how to effectively and efficiently utilize the uploaded data in the FDP Portal.*

Main objective is to Increase public access to financial documents/transactions of local government units to ensure transparency and accountability among LGUs. This commitment is relevant in promoting transparency as it provides public access to financial documents of the local governments for more intensive data processing of the LGU financial reports. The intended result is the culture of transparency among local government units built by ensuring regular public disclosure of key financial documents. Public access to this information is a pre- requisite to effective citizen engagement.

Responsible institution: Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

Supporting institution(s): Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), Budget Advocacy Group (BAG)

Start date: 1 January 2015

End date: 31 December 2017

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion				Midterm / End-of-Term				Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency &	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed					Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
2. Transparent Local Government Plans and Budgets				✓	✓						✓				✓				✓					✓	

Commitment Aim

This commitment aimed to continue to promote transparent disclosure policies at the local government level through the Full Disclosure Policy (FDP) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The FDP requires provinces, cities, and municipalities (PCMs) to fully disclose certain financial transactions and inform their constituents how local government budgets are managed, disbursed, and used. Specifically, the commitment set out to raise the percentage of local governments that comply with FDP requirements to 85 percent, to encourage local government units (LGUs) to upload documents in open formats (machine readable), and to ensure that civil society makes use of the data available on the

portal. This commitment is intended to improve local governance, deter corruption, and build trust.

Status

Midterm: Substantial

By the Midterm assessment, substantial progress had been made toward completing this commitment. There was a considerable increase in the number of local governments complying with FDP (1,216 PCMS in 2016), though additional work was needed to ensure that FDP data was published in useful and usable formats for citizens (open formats).[1] The online portal remained up-to-date since it was launched in November 2012.[2] The Budget Advocacy Group, a coalition of CSOs, had begun to use FDP data to produce data visualizations and reports, a process that was still ongoing.

End-of-term: Substantial

The online portal remains active. One of the pending deliverables was accomplished in the second year of the action plan: recently uploaded documents (the third quarter of 2016) are now available in open format. According to the end-of-term self-assessment report, the targeted number of PCMs[3] (1,592) are uploading the required documents in open format via the FDP portal. INCITEGov, who convenes the Budget Advocacy Group, the co-commitment holder from civil society, reported that they did not reach the target of training civil society groups in five regions. This was because of funding constraints.[4] Though trainings have been conducted, it is not yet clear how these data are being used and whether they have improved the capacity of CSOs to engage with the government.

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Major

The previous end-of-term report indicated that 79.1 percent of all LGUs were in compliance with the FDP as of the second quarter of 2015.[5] By June 2017, the compliance rate had increased to 98 percent of the target number. The increasing number of FDP-compliant LGUs indicates that the practice of proactively disclosing information is becoming more common across LGUs all over the Philippines. The Budget Advocacy Group's efforts to use the information on the FDP portal for advocacy indicates that there is an awareness among civil society that data are available that can be utilized for engagement. This is a major step toward transparency at the local level, which used to be largely closed and unresponsive to the public. However, the usefulness and usability of information remains a problem. As Adrienne Alquiros of De La Salle University's Jesse M. Robredo Institute of Governance (DLSU-JRIG) shared in the focus group discussion, the creation of the online portal was an innovative idea. It assumed that if government information was available online it could be easily accessed by the public. However, this idea suffers from two weaknesses: (1) poor Internet connectivity in the Philippines, and (2) ordinary citizens being unable to understand the documents that are available because they are too technical.[6] Therefore, while public uptake is not strictly speaking a determining factor in the question of "Did it Open Government," it is recommend that improving the usability of disclosed data be carried forward in the next action plan.

Carried Forward?

This commitment has not been carried forward in the next action plan. For this commitment to contribute to a more significant impact, local government financial information must be used by capable citizens to check performance and to hold public officials to account. If this was achieved, it could be a major step forward in enhancing public integrity and stimulating effective and efficient use of public resources, leading to improved public services delivery. It is crucial to sustain the compliance of local government to FDP and find sustainable ways for citizen use of the FDP data that can start by improving awareness of local/grassroots ownership of this program.

[1] Focus Group Discussion, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Officials. Held on 24 October 2016 at DILG Office, Quezon City.
[2] Full Disclosure Policy (FDP) Data Portal http://fdpp.blgs.gov.ph/
[3] Excluding those PCMs in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)
[4] INCITEGov. Response to the Questionnaire of the IRM Researcher for the End of Term Report. Sent on October 13, 2017.
[5] Philippines Self-Assessment Report: national action plan 2013-2015: Year 1 Report, (October 2015), www.gov.ph/governance/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/PHL-OGP-2nd-plan_assessment-report_as-of-October-2015_v2.pdf.
[6] Documentation Report. Roundtable discussion on 'Did it Open Government' organized by Government Watch. October 12, 2017.

Commitment 3. Open Data

Commitment Text:

The Open Data Portal (www.data.gov.ph) was launched in January 2014. Currently, the portal is host to more than 1,237 datasets, 80% of which are in open format. Main onjecitve is to To democratize access to government data through proactive disclosure in open formats and to empower citizens on how to use government data for practical innovation. Launched inJanuary16 2014 during the Good Governance Summit, Open Data Philippines is the Philippine Government's program to proactively release public sector datasets and generate an ecosystem for its use and reuse by the public. Open Data Philippines aims to institutionalize good governance by making government data available to the public. This involves collating datasets from different government agencies, cleaning them for better understandability, and uploading them to a website in open formats. The idea is that once all datasets become available, citizens will be able to verify for themselves key government transactions and track the movement of crucial resources. The program's innovative take on the public's right to information is the supply of datasets in open and machine-readable formats and the development of data.gov.ph, the centralized repository for these datasets. The program is anchored on the following key result areas: access to public sector information, data-driven governance, public engagement, and practical innovation. Open Data Philippines is not just a website, but a movement and a big part of the movement is citizen engagement. ODP regularly conducts capacity-building activities such as trainings, boot camps, consultations and developer competitions or hackathons for government agencies, civil society, academe and the private sector.

Responsible institution: Office of the Presidential Spokesperson (OPS) | Department of Budget and Management (DBM) | Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office (PCDSPO)

Supporting institution(s): World Bank, Step Up Consulting, World Wide Web Foundation, Open Data Labs Jakarta, Southeast Asia Technology and Transparency Initiative, International Center for Innovation, Transformation, and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov)

Start date: 1 January 2015

End date: 1 January 2018

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion				Midterm / End of Term				Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency &	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed					Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
3. Open Data			✓		✓						✓				✓				✓				✓		

Commitment Aim

This commitment aimed to establish the proactive release of government data in formats that are machine-readable and reusable (open formats). It also aimed to generate an ecosystem that enables the public to use and reuse government data, through the Open Data Philippines (ODP) program. This was to be pursued by enacting policies that institutionalize ODP, finding a permanent institutional home for the program, and forming open data teams in at least five government agencies. Finally, the commitment aimed to promote the use of the open data portal through stakeholder engagement activities and by expanding the amount of information available on the portal, with target of 6,000 data files.

Status

Midterm: Substantial

Substantial progress was made toward achieving this commitment by the end of the Midterm. Three commitment activities were substantially or fully completed, although the remaining two had not yet been started. In 2014, the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) 2014-01 was issued to institutionalize the Open Data Task Force; [1] JMC 2015-01 was issued in 2015, requesting that national agencies adopt open data practices.[2] As the IRM progress report was being written in late 2017, discussions were underway to identify the permanent government owner of the initiative. About 50 percent of the target number of data files (3,126) had been uploaded to the ODP portal. Training activities (including capacity building on data management and storytelling) were conducted to promote the use of the portal among relevant stakeholders. Agencies had started to form their open data teams but making them proactively release data (in compliance with JMC 2015-01) remained a challenge.

End-of-term: Substantial

While the implementation of this commitment remains substantial based on the progress made during the first year of implementation, the target of uploading 6,000 data files was not ultimately achieved. According to the government's end-of-term self-assessment report, the portal contained only 3,399 data files as of June 2017. Out of the five target government agencies to organize stakeholders' engagement events, only two events were organized during the period of the implementation of the third national action plan (June 2015-May 2017). These are Hack Tarlac by Tarlac City local government on 25 January 2015 and #ThinkOpenHealth by the Department of Health on 16 and 17 April 2016. Though there is already a memorandum circular on the institutional ownership of ODP, this has yet to be fully implemented with permanent staff and a regular budget allocation. However, the number of agencies that formed open data teams exceeded the target of five agencies - seven agencies have established teams, indicative of growing ownership of open data at the agency level. Finally, the portal remains active, though it has been transferred from data.gov.ph to gov.ph/data.[3]

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Marginal

Proactive disclosure and the release of public data has not been established as a common practice in bureaucracy. ODP is contributing to encourage a culture of data openness through efforts to make data "searchable, accessible, and useful," by consolidating datasets of different government agencies, and "allowing users to find specific information from a rich and continuously growing collection of public datasets."[4] This commitment represents a crucial action by the government to support citizen access to information in the absence of a FOI law. Raisa Perez of the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT), the new institutional home of ODP, sees it as "the platform for the government to share data as well as provide a space for citizens to request for data and information."[5] However, the impact of ODP remains marginal for two reasons. First, the pace of which agencies have adopted and implemented open data practices has been slow; second, the

use of the data available on the portal by citizens and civil society has been limited. Michella Manza, of the Open Data Team, explains that old practices are hard to break and that agencies lack incentives to post data online.[6] Meanwhile, questions remain as to the data's usefulness for the average citizen. Additionally, more work must be done to assess the mechanisms through which citizens access data and to understand why public demand for open data remains low.

Carried Forward?

Open data is not a specific commitment in the 2017-2019 national action plan. However, the new commitment entitled *e-Participation Tools Through the National Government Portal (NGP)* by the Department of Information and Communications Technology is considered as the continuation (and expansion) of this commitment.[7] Raisa Perez explains: "The difference between the previous and the current commitments is that the focus is centered on the functionality of the NGP to serve as the platform for citizens to participate in government decision-making remotely. Part of empowering the citizens to participate in governance is to give them the necessary data to inform their suggestions and decisions. The manner of providing the citizens the access to government data and information will be done partly through the Open Data Philippines." [8]

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[1] DBM, JMC no. 20-1 Jan. 22. Available at: http://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/Issuances/2014/Joint%20Memorandum%20Circular%20/JMC%20no.2014-1_Jan22.pdf.
[2] PCDSPO, Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2015-01, accessed on October 30, 2016, https://bit.ly/1P3brib
[3] Open Data Philippines https://www.gov.ph/data/.
[4] Open Data Philippines, About http://data.gov.ph/about/.
[5] Perez, Raisa. Written response to questionnaire. Sent via email on September 19, 2017.
[6] Manza, Michelle. Ibid.
[7] Perez. Ibid.; Ph-OGP. End-of-Term Self Assessment Report. October 9, 2017.
[8] Perez, Raisa. Written response to questionnaire. Sent via email on September 19, 2017.

Commitment 4. Extractive Industries' Transparency Initiative

Commitment Text:

The 1st EITI Country Report was published in the EITI website (www.ph-eiti. org) and submitted to the EITI International Board in December 2014. Further, Executive Order No. 147 was signed in November 2013 creating the Philippine EITI. Preliminary discussions have also been made in Congress and Senate in 2014. Main Objective - Improved transparency and increased accountability in the extractive industry to improve governance of the extractive sector. Specifically, the 5 main objectives for EITI implementation in the Philippines are as follows:

- *Show direct and indirect contribution of extractives to the economy (through EITI process)*
- *Improve public understanding of the management of natural resources and availability of data*
- *Strengthen national resource management / strengthen government systems*
- *Create opportunities for dialogue and constructive engagement in natural resource management in order to build trust and reduce conflict among stakeholders*
- *Strengthen business environment and increase investments.*

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a global Standard to promote open and accountable management of natural resources. It seeks to strengthen government and company systems, inform public debate, and enhance trust among stakeholders. A multi-stakeholder group composed of civil society, business, and government was formed to implement EITI in the Philippines. Through an annual report published by Ph-EITI, revenues collected by government and paid by companies are compared and reconciled to see if they tally. In the process, gaps are identified by the report, and recommendations are forumulated by stakeholders to address such gaps. Beyond producing a report and promoting fiscal transparency, PH-EITI aims to improve governnace of the extractive sector by making information accessible and enabling stakeholders to have an evidence-based approach to policymaking. The EITI promotes access to information, transparency and accountability in the extractive sector through disclosure and publication of payments made by mining, oil, gas and other extractive companies. The annual EITI report informs the public on how much the extractive industry contributes to the economy, and how the government spends such revenues for the welfare of citizens. EITI's multi-stakeholder approach also provides a platform for discussion of issues relevant to the governance of the extractive sector, thereby increasing civic participation. Aside from producing information on extractive sector revenues, EITI also promotes transparency across the extractive industry value chain, including information on the licensing process, social development programs at the local level, and processes involving Indigenous Peoples. EITI aims to ensure transparency across the extractive industry value chain and foster civil society's meaningful participation in the governance of natural resources. The disclosure of information through the EITI process enables the broader public to evaluate the extractive sector by providing a mechanism by which local communities are able to openly scrutinize the collection and spending of revenues collected by the government from the extraction of natural resources. EITI also enables civil society to assess gaps in existing government systems and provide data-driven recommendations to policymakers.

Responsible institution: Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Mines and Geosciences Bureau

Supporting institution(s): Department of Energy, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines. Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, Petroleum Association of the Philippines, Bantay Kita

Start date: 1 January 2015

End date: 31 December 2017

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Midterm / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency &	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
4. Extractive Industries' Transparency Initiative			✓		✓	✓					✓				✓	✓				✓	

Commitment Aim

This commitment aimed to improve the governance of the extractive sector by participating in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a global standard for the open and accountable management of natural resources. This involved convening a multi-stakeholder group composed of civil society, business, and government and submitting annual reports that account for the context and document revenues from extractives.[1] To achieve this, the Department of Finance (DoF) has listed the following targets:

- Publish the second and third EITI reports;
- Complete the validation process for the Philippines to be declared an EITI-compliant country;
- Adopt and amend policies and legislation to promote transparency in the extractive industries; and
- Build the capacity of stakeholders and increase their awareness EITI.

Bantay Kita, the civil society commitment holder, aimed to achieve the following targets:

- CSO representatives attending all EITI activities,
- Establish a strong and accountable CSO coalition;
- Conduct of local outreach activities;
- Publish EITI financial status; and
- Utilize EITI data.

Status

Midterm: Substantial

As of the Midterm, substantial progress was made toward completing this commitment. The second country report was submitted to the EITI Secretariat on time; the third report was still pending as of June 2016, though it was not scheduled for delivery until December 2016. The validation process, a major derivable, had not been completed as of June 2016, but the IRM researcher considered this to be on schedule and the Philippines-EITI Secretariat did not anticipate any delays. Key agencies[2] had adopted considerable reforms to promote transparency in the extractive industry and all CSO commitments had been substantially or fully completed.

End-of-term: Complete

All the target deliverables of the commitment have been accomplished. A key pending deliverable, the validation process, was accomplished with the announcement of the Philippines being "the first country to achieve satisfactory progress against the EITI standards."[3] The EITI validation report finds that "the Philippines presents a dynamic case of EITI implementation, with its fast-paced and innovative multi-stakeholder group engaging in strategic discussions linking the EITI to national priorities for the extractive sector. Government, industry and civil society have all used the EITI to address local demands for information and identify areas for reform."[4]

Meanwhile, both DoF and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have passed policies advancing transparency in the extractives sector.[5] By June 2017, Bantay Kita had conducted 53 capacity building activities and produced 20 reports using EITI data.[6] Its members represented in the EITI have also regularly attended meetings. Finally, EITI bills are pending in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.[7]

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Major

Civic Participation: Major

There are many issues and challenges surrounding the extraction and use of natural resources, such as corruption, conflict among stakeholders, revenue generation, protection of community rights, and sustainable development. Although participation in EITI is an ongoing commitment, the creation of a functioning and active multi-stakeholder group, the participation of CSOs, and the regular publication of country reports are clear indicators of improved transparency and civic participation in the extractive industry. One of the remarkable accomplishments of Bantay Kita is its Open Data initiative. This engages with communities and advocates by directly matching needed information with available information, secured, and processed by Bantay Kita. This allows more effective engagement of advocates and communities using EITI data[8].

EITI has significantly contributed to making information on extractive governance open and accessible to civil society. This has been a major step in addressing the many issues around extractives, including its meager contribution (0.75 percent) to the Philippines' total GDP.[9] The proposed legislation, improvement of EITI rating, and engagement by civil society all indicate the sustainability of current progress.

Carried Forward?

This commitment has been carried forward in the new national action plan. Included in the deliverables is the timely submission of the EITI reports, the development and roll out of an online reporting tool, as well as a scoping study on beneficial ownership disclosure. Civil society has adopted several deliverables that aim to broaden and deepen their engagement in extractives' governance, including enhanced participation of indigenous people in resource management and the passage of an EITI law.

[1] The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) www.eiti.org

[2] Aceron, Joy. Philippines Progress Report 2015-2017. Independent Reporting Mechanism-Open Government Partnership. 2017.
[3] PH lone country to meet int'l standards in extractive industries governance. Abs-Cbn News. October 6, 2017. http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/06/17/ph-lone-country-to-meet-intl-standards-in-extractive-industries-governance.
[4] The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Philippines Page https://eiti.org/philippines.
[5] PH-OGP End-of-Term Self-Assessment Report. October 9, 2017.
[6] IBID
[7] SB 1125 an act providing for the creation of Philippine extractive industries transparency initiative filed by Sen. Joel Villanueva. The bill is pending in the committee (9/7/2016) (source: Philippine Senate) and HB 4116 an act providing for the creation of Philippine extractive industries transparency initiative filed by Rep. Ramon Rocamora. The bill is under referral to the Committee on Natural Resources (2016-11-07) (source: Philippine Congress).
[8] Pimentel, Tina and Marco Zaplan , Bantay Kita. Interview on 18 November 2016 at Bantay Kita Office, Quezon City.
[9] Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Report, 2013.

Commitment 5. CSO engagement in public audit

Commitment Text:
A weak public finance management system leads to the inefficient and ineffective use of public funds. This results to unresponsive government projects that constrain the achievement of national development goals and outcomes. The main objective of CPA is to strengthen and sustain the engagement of citizens and COA in participatory audits. The Phase II of the CPA program intends to scale-up the implementation of CPA nationwide. This will be done through the rollout of participatory audit of farm-to-market roads in all regions of the country and institutionalization of this process.

Relevance:

- *Transparency – by including citizens as part of the public audit process, COA systems and processes are made transparent by giving citizen partners the same access to documents as state auditors. Audit reports are also widely disseminated through the COA website (www.coa.gov.ph) and the i-kwenta website (www.i-kwenta.com).*
- *Accountability – Putting in place the CPA Operational Guidelines provides a clear accountability system for both COA and its citizen partners. As part of the horizontal accountability system, COA (and its citizen partners) can check abuses by other public institutions and branches of government, particularly in determining whether public funds have been efficiently allocated and properly expended.*
- *Participation – Under CPA, several avenues for citizen participation are introduced. Oftentimes, citizen partners have the ability to influence the tools used during data gathering activities. During the audit report writing, both COA and its citizen partners work on it together, thereby ensuring that the recommendations identified in the audit report include those of the citizens and state auditors.*
- *Technology and Innovation - The Public Information System ensures that feedback from the public is received by COA.*
- *Ambition - By institutionalizing CPA in COA, citizen voice in government oversight systems will be magnified. It is expected that government agencies will take heed and provide the appropriate responses to enhance their own systems and processes. Eventually, the desired outcome would be a better public finance management system that ensures the efficient allocation and expenditure of public funds based on projects that are responsive to the needs and priorities of the people.*

Responsible institution: Commission on Audit

Supporting institution(s): Audit clients, i.e. National, Local and Corporate government offices and Department of Budget and Management. Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA-EAP)

Start date: 1 January 2015

End date: 31 December 2017

Commitment Overview	Specificity	OGP Value Relevance (as written)	Potential Impact	Completion	Midterm / End of Term	Did It Open Government?

	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
5. CSO engagement in public audit			✓			✓	✓				✓				✓	✓				✓	

Commitment Aim

This commitment aimed to strengthen the Citizen Participation Audit (CPA) project and institutionalize citizen participation in public audit to support the Commission on Audit (COA), the constitutionally-mandated auditing body. Building and strengthening CPA has been a commitment in the Philippine national action plan from the beginning. The effort has won an OGP award. In the third action plan, the deliverables intended to sustain and expand CPA through the passage of policies to adopt and support CPA, conducting of CPA activities, and capacity building and mobilization of CSO citizen auditors.

Status

Midterm: Substantial

By Midterm, substantial progress had been made toward completing this commitment. COA has undertaken numerous capacity building activities related to strengthening CPA. COA had published two CPA reports and another15 reports were being finalized. From June 2015 to August 2016, nine CSOs were trained and deployed as citizen auditors. With regards to sustainability and scaling up efforts, CPA was given a regular budget under the General Appropriations Act and expanded coverage of government offices that it audited (e.g. CPA of solid waste management covering all cities and municipality of Metro Manila).[1] The only deliverable pending completion was the adoption of CPA policies.

End-of-term: Complete

All the deliverables of this commitment have been completed. The finable deliverables pending have now been completed including the inclusion of CPA in the Strategic Plan of COA from 2016-2022 and the drafting of CPA Strategy and Audit Technique[2] institutionalize and operationalize CPA. According to the end-of-term self-assessment report, positive progress has been made on the number of CPA activities, capacity building activities, CPA reports published, and CSO monitors trained and mobilized.[3] CPA reports are accessible online through the COA website.[4]

Did It Open Government?

Public Accountability: Major

CPA has supported COA to perform its mandate of ensuring accountability for public resources, promoting transparency, and helping to improve government operations. Public auditing in the Philippines has been challenged by insufficient resources (there are approximately 7,000 state auditors expected to audit 61,000 government agencies)[5] and a lack of concrete support from the public, which would sharpen the impact of its audit findings and recommendations. CPA has become a platform for citizens to participate and become deputized as public auditors, thereby acting as a force-multiplier in the audit process. The

direct involvement of citizens has led to positive gains: it checks whether projects are beneficial to citizens and those being audited have been found to be more receptive of audit recommendations when citizens are part of the audit team.[6] Furthermore, the COA has noticed that auditees have implemented recommendations faster, sometimes even before the receipt of the final audit reports.[7]

ANSA-EAP has also underscored the conclusion that involving citizens has made agencies are more open to audits and more likely to implement changes based on audit findings. This has subsequently prompted a timelier response from the government.[8] Finally, the CPA reports are an additional source of information for the public, especially those interested in government performance. While the impact of audit reports on agencies' performance, and in deterring corruption or inefficiencies, has yet to be studied systematically, this commitment has provided new opportunities for CSOs to participate in the audit process and has served as a mechanism to generate a response from those being audited.

Carried Forward?

The commitment has been carried forward in the national action plan. Its focus is to improve the CPA policies based on experience, conduct CPA dialogues with the data gathered to be used as inputs in the COA's strategic planning, plan audit activities, and evaluate agency implementation of audit recommendations.

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[1] Thank you to new/ additional information provided by COA in commenting on earlier draft of the Progress Report.
[2] PH-OGP. End of Term Self-Assessment Report. October 2017.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Commision of Audit, Citizens Participation Reports https://www.coa.gov.ph/index.php/reports/citizen-participatory-audit-reports.
[5] Citizen Participatory Audit in the Philippines. http://iniciativatpa.org/2012/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/CPA-case-study.pdf.
[6] Commission on Audit. Written Response to IRM Questionnaire.
[7] Commission on Audit. Written Response to IRM Questionnaire.
[8] ANSA-EASP comment on the earlier draft of the Progress Report.

Commitment 6. CSO participation in local poverty reduction budget planning

Commitment Text:
There is an existing gap between local and national budget and development plans. Bottom-up-Budgeting (BuB) aims to contribute to making governance responsive to local needs and making public resources allocation more efficient and effective through citizen participation. This in turn will contribute to poverty reduction and inclusive growth.

Status Quo: Currently, 1,514 cities and municipalities have submitted Local Poverty Reduction Action Plans. The main objective is to increase citizen's access to local service delivery through demand-driven budget planning process, and to strengthen government accountability in local public service provision.

Relevance - The BUB program is relevant in advancing citizen engagement as it provides a mechanism for citizens to directly participate in the national budgeting process through the Local Poverty Reduction Action Team (LPRAT). BuB also seeks to establish supportive policies and create mechanisms that enable citizens and grassroots organizations to increase their demand for improved local service delivery and a more accountable government.

Ambition - The intended result is more responsive government plans and budget through the bottom-up process. The aim is to institutionalize participation of grassroots organizations in developing local poverty reduction action plans and identifying projects to be implemented in their areas. BuB is also expected to improve service delivery, benefiting especially the poor households and marginalized sectors.

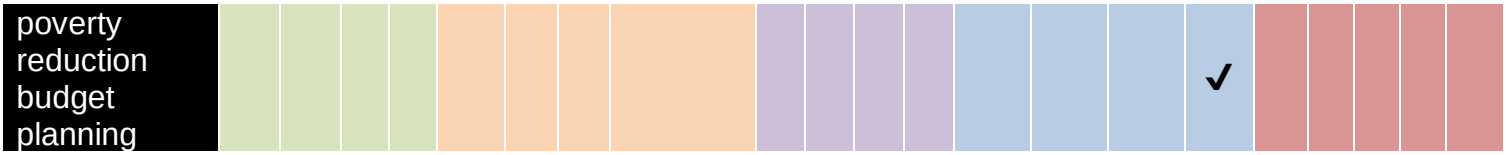
Responsible institution: Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

Supporting institution(s): Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC); Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP); Budget Advocacy Group, Task Force Participatory Local Governance.

Start date: 1 January 2015

End date: 31 December 2017

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Midterm / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Maior	Outstanding
6. CSO participation in local				✓	✓	✓					✓				✓					✓	



Commitment Aim

The commitment aimed to strengthen the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in planning the budgets for local poverty reduction through Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB). Grassroots organizations and local government units (LGUs) would be supported to identify poverty reduction projects to be funded by national government agencies. It also aimed to ensure cities and municipalities comply with the submission of their Local Poverty Reduction Action Plan (LPRAP) following participatory processes and increase the allocation of performance-based funds to high-performing LGUs as an incentive. This commitment also included delivering a system to monitor progress of BuB projects and generate feedback from stakeholders. CSO deliverables were advocating for legislation and holding dialogues on citizen participation and BuB case studies with stakeholders from government and civil society.

Status

Midterm: Substantial

Substantial progress was made toward completing this commitment. The number of LPRAPs passed in 2016 exceeded the target, falling only two short of the target for 2017. The allocated amount for performance-based downloads through the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF), which is a direct download, also exceeded the target. It increased from 2.5B in 2015 to 11.7B in 2016, and 15.8B in 2017. A dialogue on BuB took place at the House of Representatives and CSOs conducted two studies relevant to the commitment. The feedback and monitoring system and the BuB case studies which, at the time of writing the progress report, had not yet been started.

End-of-term: Complete

All the deliverables for this commitment have been accomplished. Despite the Citizen Participation bill not being prioritized by the government, INCITEGov has convened dialogues on the issue. The National Economic and Development Authority (LEDAC) has supported the Budget Reform Bill, championed by the Department of Budget and Management.[1] BuB included a citizen-led monitoring system implemented by NAPC and civil society groups. This involved on-the-ground monitoring by civil society and sessions for gathering feedback and solving problems. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) created the OpenBuB online portal, which has information on the status of BuB projects. DILG also established a hotline and posted information about it in local government offices.[2] The Jesse Robredo Institute of Governance, the CSO co-commitment holder, published two relevant studies, one looked at two municipalities and one city in Region VI, the other looked at one municipality and one city in Region X.[3]

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Marginal

Civic Participation: Major

Ordinary citizens have been provided with too few opportunities to input into planning and budgeting in the Philippines. Despite both the Constitution and the 1991 Local Government Code requiring CSO participation, budgeting has remained overly centralized. This commitment provided space for CSOs to influence budget priorities, which have previously been unresponsive to the needs of citizens. CSOs have also been given the opportunity to monitor budget performance. Several studies assessing the BuB[4] program found that the commitment has opened the budgeting process to citizens and enabled civil society to meaningfully engage their local government officials. However, different local government

units (LGUs) have recorded different results and the lengthy time period for completing projects has been a common problem.

CSO stakeholders have pointed out that the capacity of the citizens and civil society groups to engage government effectively has been a major strategic concern. Looking at past OGP experience, the participatory initiatives that have been relatively successful are those that supported citizen and community organizations to mobilize. However, the challenge is how the government will support civil society engagement without compromising civil society independence and autonomy, which was also established as key to claim-making of rights and accountability efforts of civil society.[5] Melissa Navarra and Vince Eugenio of Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) have both affirmed the need for community organization. Luningning Bendoy and Gigile Saguran of Damayan ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api (DAMPA), an urban poor women's group, have highlighted the importance of community organizers that have the capacity to navigate the dynamic and highly politicized processes of local governance. Better engagement of community organizers is a major opportunity for expansion and improvement for BuB and other participatory programs. [6]

This commitment has marginally opened government with respect to access for information through the OpenBuB portal. While data on BuB performance was available was not used much by civil society and the public.[7] This suggests that the "demand-side" of open government data and mechanisms needs to be improved; citizens, based on their context and needs, need to be able to use available information to hold officials to account for their words and actions.'[8]

Carried Forward?

The Department of Budget of Management, under the administration of President Duterte, decided to drop BuB in 2016.[9] This was despite calls from CSOs to retain it.[10] The earlier Php 35 Billion proposed budget for the project was cut from the General Appropriations Act. The government asserts that the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities (ADM) will replace BuB in the next action plan. Unlike BuB, which eventually grew to cover all localities and included a detailed process of CSO participation, ADM[11] only supports municipalities with projects that they have pre-selected. CSO representatives from the Local Development Council (LDC) Executive Committee are required to sign the list of projects proposed by the local government. INCITEGov describes it as a "simpler but limited platform for participation."[12] The government's end-of-term self-assessment says the ADM intends to "strengthen the voices of the CSOs in the Local Development Councils where annual investment projects are approved for inclusion in the LGU budget."[13] This has not yet been reflected in a new ADM guideline.[14]

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[1] INCITEGov. Response to the Questionnaire of the IRM Researcher for the End of Term Report. Sent on October 13, 2017.

[2] Political Democracy and Reforms and Government Watch (PODER/ G-Watch). 2016. Understanding Governance Reforms in "Fragile" Societies: The Case of Bottom-Up Budgeting in ARMM. Oxfam and Ateneo School of Government; Cayadong, Perigine M, Jude Esguerra, Marie Labajo, Joel Rocamora. 2016. Rearranging Local-Central Government Relations: The "Bottom Up Budgeting" (BUB) program. Draft.

[3] Case studies are available at https://www.dlsu-jrig.org/learning-materials/.

[4] According to BuB staff that participated in the FGD, there are several studies by Philippine Institute for Development Studies. One is accessible online: Manasan, Rosario. "Assessment of the Bottom-Up-Budgeting Process for FY 2015. Discussion Paper Series No. 2015-25. Philippine Institute for Development Studies. April 2015.

[5] Documentation Report. Roundtable discussion on 'Did it Open Government' organized by Government Watch. October 12, 2017.

[6] IBID

[7] IBID

[8] Jesse Robredo Institute of Governance (JRIG). Response to Questionnaire for the End of Term IRM Report. October 9, 2017.

[9] DBM junks Aquino admin's bottom-up budgeting, calls it 'political' tool, Inquirer.net. 15 July 2016 http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/796143/dbm-junks-aquino-admins-bottom-up-budgeting-calls-it-political-tool.

[10] CSOs across the nation call for the continuation of Bottom-Up Budgeting Sandino Soliman. CODE-NGO. 17 October 2016 http://code-ngo.org/2016/10/csos-across-nation-call-continuation-bottom-budgeting/.
[11] DILG-DBM Joint Memorandum Circular 1: Policies and Guidelines for the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities Program. September 16, 2016.
[12] INCITEGov. Response to the Questionnaire of the IRM Researcher for the End of Term Report. Sent on October 13, 2017.
[13] PH-OGP End-of-Term Self-Assessment Report. October 9, 2017. https://www.opengovpartnership.org/sites/default/files/Philippines_End-of_Term_Self-Assessment_2015-2017.pdf.
[14] Both the September 16, 2016 (DBM-DILG JMC 1) and May 23, 2017 Guidelines (DBM-DILG JMC 2017-3) have yet to present the process for CSO participation in the ADM.

Commitment 7. Community participation in local development planning

Commitment Text:
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed

Poverty, non-inclusive development, elite capture in project identification and implementation, corruption.

Main Objective

Communities in the target municipalities become empowered to achieve improved access to basic services and to participate in more inclusive local planning, budgeting, implementation and disaster risk reduction and management.

Description of Commitment

KC-NCDDP aims to capacitate communities to be active partners in local development and to support improvement in local governance. Community capacity building is done through trainings, coaching and providing community volunteers the space to exercise these skills in the Community Empowerment Activity Cycle. In Program implementation, KC-NCDDP adopts barangay assembly decision making, participatory situation analysis, inter-barangay forum for prioritization, community procurement, community finance, community monitoring, grievance redress and accountability reporting as vehicles to promote participation of community members and other citizen groups. On the governance side, continuing capacity building is provided to LGUs, supporting them on local poverty reduction action planning, resource mobilization, and implementation of CDD. Additional program level activities were adopted to further strengthen open governance include geo-tagging, hazard mapping, issuance of DRRM guidelines and Municipal Talakayan (where LGUs and citizens discuss development issues).

Relevance

Transparency – Involvement of communities in planning, procurement, financial management, grievance redress ensures that the whole community knows and understands resources flowing to their communities, processes in planning and implementation, and output of their initiatives. Engaging civil society in public audit - Accountability reporting and Municipal Talakayan discloses to the public local needs, available resources, identified activities for funding and how these are delivered and how resources were utilized. Enhance government procurement – the use of community procurement presents an alternative system for government where communities themselves are involved in every step of the process. Accessible data (single format and portal) – information on completed sub-projects are consistently being uploaded to the Open Data website. Protocols for geo-tagging are consistent with DA, NEDA, DENR and other government agencies for uniformity of format and easy data sharing. Enhance performance bench marks for local governance – utilization of PSA monitoring, and survey data in assessing the quality of LGU projects and services and the level of development in the municipality. Grassroots participation in local planning and budgeting – promotion of localized and demand driven decision making through mobilization of grassroots organization and communities in planning, implementing and managing subprojects that address local poverty and disaster response operations and ensuring that barangay development plans are integrated into municipal development plans.

Ambition

It is envisioned that with the conduct of trainings and other capacity building activities, communities will actively and effectively participate in improving the quality of their lives by taking part in identification of community needs and solutions, and in regular local planning and resource allocation Meanwhile, LGUs will actively deliver quality and inclusive basic social welfare and development services by being responsive to community identified needs, and being providing access to information on local resources, plans and processes

Performance Target by 2015:

- *177 municipalities with increased membership of POs and CSOs in local development councils and special bodies*
- *5574 barangays with poverty reduction action plans prepared, involving community members*
- *6,735 community projects completed*

Performance Target by 2016:

- *325 municipalities with increased membership of POs and CSOs in local development councils and special bodies*
- *6,889 barangays with poverty reduction action plans prepared, involving community members*
- *7,713 community projects completed*

Performance Target by 2017:

- *345 municipalities with increased membership of POs and CSOs in local development councils and special bodies*
- *7,184 barangays with poverty reduction action plans prepared, involving community members*
- *5,061 community projects completed*

Responsible institution: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

Supporting institution(s): National Steering Committee: National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Finance, National Anti-Poverty Commission, Department of Budget and Management, Department of the Interior and Local Governemnt, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Public Work and Highways, Department of Labor and Employment, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, Office of the Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, League of Provinces, League of Municipalities, League of Barangays, Regional Development Councils, Municipal and Barangay Local Government Units. World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Australian Government DFAT, AECID, Millennium Challenge Corporation Task Force Participatory Local Governance

Start date: 1 January 2015

End date: 31 December 2017

Commitment Overview	Specificity	OGP Value Relevance (as written)	Potential Impact	Completion	Midterm / End of Term	Did It Open Government?

	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency &	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
7. Community participation in local development planning			✓			✓					✓				✓					✓	

Commitment Aim

The commitment aimed to strengthen community participatory processes and facilitate citizen involvement in local development planning through a Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) program called Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI)-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Service (KALAHI CIDSS) (KC) National Community-Driven Development Program (NCDDP).[12]

For steps would be needed to achieve this commitment: first, the number of representatives on local development councils and special bodies from people's organizations (POs) and civil society organizations (CSO) needs to be increased; second, thousands of villages need to submit their poverty reduction action plans and complete the relevant community projects; third, the DSDW must document community experiences and the quality of participation; and fourth, the Task Force Participatory Local Governance (TF-PLG), or the civil society commitment holder, must conduct a further study on citizen participation.

Status

Midterm: Substantial

Substantial progress had been made by the Midterm. More POs and CSOs became involved in in local development councils and special bodies during the period. 173 municipalities out of a targeted 177 increased their PO and CSO membership in 2015, 325 out of a targeted 585 municipalities increased membership in 2016.[3] The other two deliverables (i.e. submitting action plans and completing community projects) were still short of the targets.[4] Finally, the studies on civil society participation in KALAHI-CIDSS had not been started yet.

End-of-term: Substantial

According to the Midterm progress report, all the deliverables for this commitment were on target to be completed. However, the government's end-of-term self-assessment reported that none the deliverables were fully met: 800 municipalities increased membership of POs and CSOs in local development councils and special bodies, 94 percent of the target; 12,846 barangays/ villages have developed action plans, 65 percent of the target; and 20,184 community projects completed poverty reduction plans, 94 percent of the target.[5] As such, the status of the commitment has been downgraded from complete to substantial.

The progress report stated that the main causes of delays to the implementation of projects was the reporting schedule and documentation requirements of agencies.[6] Jesse Robredo from the Institute of Governance (JRIG) reported that funding constraints had delayed the completion of the case study, thought JRIG and its local academic partners in Regions VI, V, and IX had conducted the research.[7]

Did It Open Government?

Civic Participation: Major

KC-NCDDP has enabled citizens to identify, implement, and monitor projects that are needed in their communities. A total of Php 19 billion (approximately USD $283 million) has been disbursed to community projects through KC-NCDDP. The entry of new community leaders from in local development councils has allowed a new set of citizen leaders to influence decision making in these bodies. An impact study by The World Bank provides an affirmative account of the citizen mobilization: "Available evidence indicates that KALAHI-CIDSS subprojects were not subject to elite capture, at least in its most malign form […] Barangay captains (elected village officials) did not appear to be an overwhelming force behind proposals put forward to the MIBF (subproject prioritizing committee), as their preferences and those of community members were equally represented in community proposals. Not surprisingly, however, individuals who were already active in community affairs prior to the project are more likely to have their preferences represented in the submitted community proposal."[8]

Plans generated through KC-NCDDP processes are being used in other programs, facilitating a convergence of government and civil society efforts.

Carried Forward?

The commitment has not been carried on in the next action plan. According to a DSWD official interviewed by the IRM researcher, while other monitoring systems focus on efficiency and effectiveness, OGP adds value to the commitment by monitoring participation and access to information for KC-NCDDP.[9] In the future, KALAHI-CIDSS' monitoring system will need to pursue this without it being included in a PH-OGP action plan.

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[1] See Aceron, Joy. 2017. Philippines Progress Report, 2015-2017. Open Government Partnership Independent Reporting Mechanism.
[2] CIDSS and NCDDP are different components or are enhancements of KALAHI. They are treated as different programs by the government.
[3] See Aceron, Joy. 2017. Philippines Progress Report, 2015-2017. Open Government Partnership Independent Reporting Mechanism.
[4] Ibid.
[5] PH-OGP End-of-Term Self-Assessment Report. October 2017.
[6] Pre-publication review comment, DSWD-KALAHI CIDSS Team (April 2018):
"Reasons for the non-achievement of targets in deliverables are due to the following: 1) KC NCDDP coverage depends on LGU enrollment to the program. Some target municipalities decided not to enroll due to reasons such as lack of cash counterpart. 2) KC NDDP follows a timeline of implementation - usually 6 months of social preparation and 6 months of subproject implementation. Those that were funded in the latter part of 2017 would only be completed by end of December or 1st quarter of 2018."
[7] Jesse Robredo Institute of Governance (JRIG). Response to Questionnaire for the End of Term IRM Report.
[8] Phillipines KALAHI-CIDSS Impact Evaluation: A Revised Synthesis Report. World Bank January 2013 https://bit.ly/2rbuGmv
[9] Silli, Eleonora Gretchel, Monitoring and Evaluation Office, KALAHI-CIDDS NCDDP PMO-Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Interview on 3 November 2016 at KALAHI-DSWD Office, Quezon City.

Commitment 8. Feedback mechanism to improve public delivery

Commitment Text:

- *Government agencies do not follow or have poor service commitments to the public.*
- *One-way government frontline service approach which does not consider customer insight.*

Main objective - The Integrated Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA) Program's main objective is to improve public service delivery by making government agencies responsive to their customers' insights. The program also aims to increase transparency, citizen participation, and accountability. By doing so, the Integrated ARTA Program responds to the societal goal, Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction. Performance Target by 2017:

- *90% of public reports lodged via Contact Center ng Bayan (CCB), acted upon by CSC*
- *10% increase in the percentage of offices surveyed under the Report Card Survey (RCS) obtaining the Citizen's Satisfaction Center Seal of Excellence Award (CSC-SEA) (2015 baseline).*

Ambition - As the program empowers both the public and government agencies, an espousal of a culture of customer service and continuous public service improvement is envisioned. With the program, government agencies will hopefully open up and view the public clients as their partners, and public feedback as constructive and valuable inputs for genuine public service delivery enhancement.

Responsible institution: Civil Service Commission

Supporting institution(s): Department of Science and Technology-Information and Communications Technology Office. Bantay.PH, United Nations Development Programme, Integrity for Investments Initiative (i3)/USAID

Start date: 2015

End date: 2017

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion				Midterm / End of Term					Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency &	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed						Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
8. Feedback mechanism to improve public			✓			✓	✓				✓				✓	✓									✓	

Commitment Aim

This commitment aimed to improve public service delivery through an effective government feedback and monitoring mechanism, particularly the Integrated Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA) Program of the Civil Service Commission (CSC). The Contact Center ng Bayan is a national public feedback system that can be contacted via SMS, phone, and email, and responds to feedback. The commitment set targets for the percentage of reports generated through Contact Center ng Bayan that must have been acted upon (80 percent and 85 percent for 2015 and 2016, respectively). The commitment also aimed to increase the number of offices that receive the Citizens' Satisfaction Center-Seal of Excellence Award (CSC-SEA), from 2015 baseline.[1]

Status

Midterm: Substantial

The progress report marked this commitment's level of completion as "substantial." 100 percent of the complaints lodged via CNC were acted upon in 2015 and 2016,[2] The feedback was forwarded to concerned agencies for action. CNC reported that 87 percent of complaints had been resolved by the end of December 2015, while the remainder were to be resolved in January 2016.[3]

The completion level of the commitment on Seal of Excellence Awards recipients was limited because the 2016 Report Card Survey was still ongoing at the time of writing the progress report. CSC expected that the number of agencies awarded the Seal would go down because of changes to the criteria. In the past, the presence of strike out questions, which are questions on standards that are either present or absent, were graded. These were changed to possibly automatically disqualify certain offices, making it harder to qualify for the seal.[4]

End-of-term: Complete

All the deliverables for this commitment have now been completed. The number of recipients of CSC-Seal of Excellence Award has increased by 16 percent. [5] Nine more agencies were awarded the Seal in 2016, in addition to the 55 recipients in 2015.[6]

Did It Open Government?

Public Accountability: Major

Civic Participation: Minor

Government agencies have a history of poor service delivery and had not used customer feedback to improve performance in the past. The commitment has demonstrated the effectiveness using incentive (awards) and feedback to improve the delivery of front-line services.[7] This is evidenced by the increasing number of agencies improving their performance in the ARTA-Report Card Survey and the increase in the number of recipients of the Seal. The increasing number of frontline agencies with improved performance[8] indicates a growing awareness of the need for frontline services to improve and be citizen-oriented. As reported by CSC: "Because of the results of the RCS and feedback through the Contact Center ng Bayan, many government offices have initiated concrete improvements. Among these are the HDMF's 'One Look Service Offices', SSS' ARTA Corner, GSIS' internal survey on client satisfaction, and PhilHealth's Queuing System in all its branches in NCR wherein the response time/performance of frontliners could also be checked."[9] However, there are a number of frontline agencies whose performance are yet to improve despite being subjected to ARTA-RCS and there are critical agencies (eg. Bureau of Customs) that have yet to be covered by ARTA-RCS.

There is also room to improve the citizen participation component. Though Contact Center ng Bayan provides a space for citizens to give feedback, the use of the platforms and mechanisms by citizens could be improved, including the feedback mechanisms available at the frontline services, to make government responsive and accountable and avoid inefficiency and corruption.

Carried Forward?

This commitment has not been carried forward into the next action plan. Executive Order six (passed on 14 October 2016) established a new feedback mechanism called 8888 Citizens' Complaint Hotline. This new mechanism has been included in the next PH-OGP action plan.

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[1] See the Progress Report for more details. Aceron, Joy. 2017. Philippines Progress Report, 2015-2017. Open Government Partnership Independent Reporting Mechanism.
[2] Ibid
[3] Civil Service Commission. CCB 2015 Terminal Report. Unpublished document.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Civil Service Commission. Response to the Questionnaire of the IRM Researcher for the End of Term Report. Sent on October 9, 2017.
[6] Ibid
[7] G-Watch/ PODER-Ateneo School of Government (2015). Monitoring and Assessment of the Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA) Report Card Survey. Ateneo School of Government. Unpublished report.
[8] CSC, Integrated Anti-Red Tape Program, Accessed on Nov. 12, 2016, http://www.gov.ph/governance/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Q1-Q2-2015-ANTI-RED-TAPE.pdf.
[9] Civil Service Commission. Response to the Questionnaire of the IRM Researcher for the End of Term Report. Sent on October 9, 2017.

Commitment 9. Enhance performance benchmarks for local governance

Commitment Text:

Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed

There exists a continuing challenge for local governments to perform better, and achieve a desirable condition where local governments are able to:

- *Sustain the practice of transparency and accountability in the use of public funds;*
- *Prepare for challenges posed by disasters;*
- *Demonstrate sensitivity to the needs of vulnerable and marginalized sectors of society*
- *Encourage investment and employment;*
- *Protect constituents from threats to life and security; and*
- *Safeguard the integrity of the environment*

Main Objective

The objective is to stipulate good governance behavior among local governments specifically in: a) the proper utilization of public funds; b) providing exemplary services to local communities; and c) promoting transparency, accountability and participation. Brief Description of Commitment From its pilot run in 2010, the Seal of Good Housekeeping (SGH) promotes transparency and accountability in local operations. In 2012, 84% of provinces, cities and municipalities were conferred with the SGH. This indicates readiness of local governments to take on greater challenges. In 2014, the Department scaled up the Seal of Good Housekeeping into the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), a recognition of good performance of provincial, city and 31 municipal governments, not only on financial housekeeping, but also on other areas that directly benefit the people. These performance areas are: good financial housekeeping, disaster preparedness, social protection for the basic sector, business friendliness and competitiveness, environmental management, and law and order and public safety.

OGP challenge addressed by the commitment

- *Improving Public Services*
- *Increasing Public Integrity*
- *More Effectively Managing Public Resources*

Relevance: This commitment is relevant in advancing transparency and citizen participation through the various performance criteria required for eligibility of the SGLG. This seeks to improve government service delivery by fostering openness and participation through compliance with the Full Disclosure Policy and representation of sectors in local decision bodies; and improve governance and capacity of local governments. The Seal is a demonstration that transparency and accountability work for the interest of the citizen, not only in knowing the financial health of the local government and the range of services it provides, but also where citizens are able to draw local information and engage in good service delivery.

Ambition : Raising the performance benchmarks of LGUs intends to improve aspects of local governance, such as transparency in local plans and budgets and mandatory representation of CSOs in local special bodies.

Responsible institution: Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)

Supporting institution(s): Commission on Audit, Commission on Human Rights, Council for the Welfare of Children, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Education, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Finance, Department of

Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Trade and Industry, Government Service Insurance System, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, National Council on Disability Affairs, National Council on Indigenous People, National Economic and Development Authority, National Police Commission, Office of Civil Defense, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Philippine Commission on Women Philippine Health Insurance Corporation Philippine National Police, Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines, Center for Disaster Preparedness, Jesse M. Robredo Institute of Governance, Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas, Transparency and Accountability Network

Start date: January 2015

End date: April 2017

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion				Did It Open Government?				
															Midterm						
															End of Term						
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
9. Enhance local government performance benchmarks				✓			✓				✓				✓	✓				✓	

Commitment Aim

The commitment aimed to encourage good performance among local governments through the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG). SGLG recognizes good performance among provincial, city, and municipal governments in areas that directly benefit people. This includes good financial housekeeping, disaster preparedness, social protection for the basic sector, business-friendliness and competitiveness, environmental management, and peace and order. To achieve its desired objective, the commitment aimed to enhance the performance scales of SGLG, assess 1,653 provinces, cities, and municipalities (PCMs) annually from 2015- 2017, confer Seals to all qualified PCMs, and ensure representation of CSOs in the SGLG assessment team.

Status

Midterm: Substantial

Substantial progress had been made by the med-term, with three of the four deliverables completed. In January 2016, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued a guideline that upgraded the assessment criteria and indicators for compliance.[1] In 2015, 1,676 PCMs were assessed[23] and 306 were awarded the Seal using the upgraded criteria[4]. This was a 20 percent increase from the 254 PCMs awarded the Seal in 2015. All SGLG assessment teams included CSO representatives for the 2015 and 2016 evaluation rounds.[5]

At the time of writing the progress report, the assessment of PCMs for 2016 was ongoing and so this could not be marked as complete.

End-of-term: Complete

This commitment has been completed. The government used the upgraded criteria to assess 1,671 PCMs during the period, more than the targeted number of 1,653 PCMs. The other deliverables were completed in the first year of implementation.

Did It Open Government?

Public Accountability: Major

The state of development and governance in local governments across the country varies. Some local governments continue to struggle, while a few are performing well but inconsistently. This commitment encouraged local governments to improve performance as measured by criteria and indicators that are important to the development and growth of their constituencies. The increase in the number of recipients of SGLG Seals shows the improvement in local governments according to the standards set by SGLG. The fact that there has been a decrease in the number of local government units (LGUs) with adverse findings from COA[6] on issues related to budget allocations and responsiveness indicates continued improvement in the financial management of LGUs. Girlie Zara, the DILG official responsible for this commitment, attributes the 100 percent assessment coverage to the political support of the former secretary, as well as and improvements in the system (i.e. a pre-existing structure, personnel, and linkages)[7]. The awareness campaign of the Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines also helped to generate local government participation.[8]

This commitment has not been coded as outstanding because challenges remain in how data can be used by citizens to pressure local governments to perform better. While there has been an increase in number of local governments receiving the SGLG seal, there are still many LGUs that are not compliant. Input on the SGLG assessment of LGUs from civil society on the ground might help to ensure accuracy of the assessment and serve as leverage for civil society in pushing for sustained improvements to performance.

Carried Forward?

The SGLG has not been carried forward in the next action plan. According to the representative of PH-OGP, there is a need for DILG to clarify how their deliverables will build on its current accomplishments in the third action plan.[9] As recommended in the IRM progress report, the SGLG would benefit from another platform that could monitor and advocate for it. The SGLG could be integrated with other programs that make use of the information it generates and then leverage it to pass relevant reform measures. Deliverables should focus on the engagement and use of external stakeholders of the SGLG process and results. It should also be harmonized with other related performance assessment systems and tools.

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[1] The Seal of Good Local Governance 2016 Awardees http://www.dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/issuances/memo_circulars/dilg-memocircular-2016111_e820585515.pdf.
[2] In 2016, 1,673 LGUs were assessed for 2016 SGLG according to corrected data provided by the Bureau of Local Government Supervision (BLGS) of the DILG. At the time of writing the IRM Progress Report 2015-2017, only the 2015 figures were available.
[3] PH-OGP. Midterm Self-Assessment Report; Zara, Girlie, LGOO VII, Bureau of Local Government Supervision (BLGS) - Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). Interview on 24 October 2016 at DILG Office, Quezon City.
[4] Seal of Good local Governance 2016 Awardees http://www.dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/reports_resources/dilg-reports-resources-20161027_8441b747a6.pdf.
[5] For details, see Aceron, Joy. 2017. Philippines Progress Report, 2015-2017. Open Government Partnership Independent Reporting Mechanism.
[6] Zara, Girlie, LGOO VII, Bureau of Local Government Supervision (BLGS) - Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). Interview on 24 October 2016 at DILG Office, Quezon City.
[7] Ibid

[8] For details, see Aceron, Joy. 2017. Philippines Progress Report, 2015-2017. Open Government Partnership Independent Reporting Mechanism.
[9] Marianne Fabian, PH-OGP Secretariat, DBM. In Roundtable discussion on 'Did it Open Government' organized by Government Watch. October 12, 2017.

Commitment 10. Improve ease of doing business

Commitment Text:
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed

The milestone of this continuing commitment remains the same as the target end date was set in 2016. The next Doing Business Report has yet to be published in the fourth quarter of 2015. The Philippines' ranking has improved significantly since 2013, jumping 43 notches. Currently, the Philippines ranks 95th out of the 189 countries that were covered by the Doing Business survey.

Main Objective

The initiative aims to raise Philippine competitiveness rankings from the bottom third to the top third in the world by 2016. Brief Description of Commitment Gameplan on Competitiveness - Ease of Doing Business was created to initiate, implement, and monitor ease of doing business reforms, and the inclusion of the reform targets in the performance-based incentive system of all government agencies concerned with business-process related services.

OGP challenge addressed by the commitment Improving Public Services

Relevance: This commitment is relevant in promoting transparency and efficiency in government doing business processes. This initiative is also relevant to OGP as it promotes technology and innovation in streamlining processes and implementing doing business reforms in the country.

Ambition : Aside from improved ranking in the Doing Business Survey, the more important ambition in this commitment is institutionalizing efficiency in the business processes in the country.

Responsible institution: National Competitiveness Council (NCC)

Supporting institution(s): Department of Trade and Industry

Start date: 1 July 2013 ..... **End date:** 31 October 2016

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion				Midterm / End of Term				Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed					Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
10. Improve ease of doing business		✓			Unclear						✓				✓				✓			✓			

Commitment Aim

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Philippines have found it difficult to grow due to the discouraging processes facing would-be entrepreneurs. This commitment built on the 2012 Game Plan for Competitiveness, which was crafted in response to the country's poor performance on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Survey.[1] In order to boost the Philippine's ranking, this commitment aimed to streamline and simplify government processes across ten areas measured by the survey.[2] This includes reforms that address issues such as starting a business and paying taxes.

Status

Midterm: Substantial

As of the Midterm, substantial progress had been made in terms of developing more streamlined business processes, however the overall commitment objective of achieving a top third ranking had not been achieved. Instead, the Philippines fell six ranks to 103 out of 189 countries in the 2016 Ease of Doing Business Survey.[3] The target was not achieved for three main reasons: (1) the survey methodology was changed, (2) public awareness of the reform initiative was lacking, and (3) the support and commitment of a few agencies did not materialize.[4] The National Competitiveness Council (NCC), the lead implementing agency for this commitment, reported substantial progress[5] in streamlining business processes, despite this not being reflected in the country's ranking.

End-of-term: Substantial

This commitments' accomplishment by the end-of-term remains substantial, though additional progress was made during the second year of implementation. The ranking of the Philippines improved in the 2017 Ease of Doing Business Survey to 99 out of the 190 countries. This is lower than the 2015 ranking (95 out of 190) but according to interviews this could be due to the change in the survey methodology.[6] It is worth noting that the Philippines has already moved 49 notches since its ranking in 2011.

Beginning June 2016, the Duterte administration continued reforms under Gameplan 4.0. The NCC made starting a business easier in 2016 by streamlining communications between the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Social Security System, thereby expediting the process of issuing an employer registration number.[7] In 2017, the NCC increased the transparency of its building regulations, thereby making it easier to deal with construction permits.[8] Additionally, the NCC made paying taxes easier by allowing health contributions, corporate income tax, and VAT returns to be completed online.[9]

The NCC also shared conduct of validation workshops that finalized targets for implementing agencies under the Gameplan 4.0 and ensured they were delivered on.[10] The NCC composed six reforms and 11 updates across all ten indicators measured in the World Bank's Doing Business Report.[11] These reforms were presented in the '5th Doing Business Summit' convened by NCC in June 2017.

The end-of-term self-assessment report also reports the institutionalization of the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) inter-agency task force that has been overseeing and monitoring the EODB commitments of concerned agencies. The reform targets of relevant agencies have also been incorporated in the performance-based incentive system, according to the PH-OGP's End of Term Self-Assessment Report.[12]

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Did not change

Civic Participation: Marginal (Private sector participation)

Public Accountability: Marginal

The commitment facilitated private sector participation in OGP as a key stakeholder for achieving open government reforms in this area. Through the implementation of this

commitment, the business sector was represented in the task force and was involved in the implementation of its key activities. According to the NCC, the taskforce has become "an effective communication platform that allows regular consultations between the public and private sector, making the latter a vital part of the reform process."[13] However, this space is limited to the private sector and has not been opened up to ordinary citizens.

The commitment also indirectly contributed to public accountability as it facilitated stakeholder monitoring of the concerned implementing government agencies' actions in improving the country's competitiveness, such as the use of technology and innovation in streamlining processes and implementing doing business reforms in the country.

Carried Forward?

The commitment will be carried forward in the national action plan. It will support the Duterte administration's ten point socioeconomic agenda, which aims to improve the ease of doing business. The target deliverables include the implementation of the new Gameplan on Competitiveness: Ease of Doing Business and "Project Repeal: The Philippines' Red Tape Challenge," which aims to cut red tape in frontline agencies.[14]

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[1] Ease of Doing Business Survey is a survey on competitiveness conducted by The World Bank. The Philippines has jumped from 144th in 2010 to 108th in 2014-2015 in the Ease of Doing Business Index. The top third of the ranking is 1st-63rd place.

[2] These areas include: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and resolving insolvency.

[3] Doing Business 2016: The Philippines https://bit.ly/2HYfEKv.

[4] Focus Group Discussion, National Competitive Council (NCC) Staff. Held on 12 October 2016 at NCC Office, Makati City.

[5] The following were listed in the Official Gazette of the Philippines on Ease of Doing Business Report which also notes a change in rating due to change in the methodology: How to start a business: No. of steps increased from 15 to 16 and No. of days reduced from 35 to 34; Dealing with construction permits: No. of steps reduced from 25 to 24 and No. of days increased from 77 to 94; Getting an electricity connection: No. of steps reduced from 5 to 4 and No. of days remains at 42; Registering property: No. of steps is 9 and No. of days is 35 (Note: These figures cannot be compared with the 2014 set of indicators due to changes in methodology); Getting credit information: Depth of credit information index is 5 and Strength of legal rights index is 3 (Note: These figures cannot be compared with the 2014 set of indicators due to changes in methodology); Protecting investors: Extent of Conflict of Interest Regulation index is 4/10 and Extent Shareholder Governance index is 4.33/10 (Note: These figures cannot be compared with the 2014 set of indicators due to changes in methodology); Paying taxes: No. of payments remains at 36 and No. of hours to prepare and file returns and pay taxes remains at 193; Trading across borders: No. of documents to export remains at 6, No. of days to export remains at 15, No. of documents to import remains at 7, No. of days to import remains at 14; Enforcing contracts (through our courts): No. of steps remains at 37 and No. of days remains at 842; Resolving insolvency (filing for bankruptcy and shutting down a company): Recovery rate (cents per $) is at 21.24, Strength of Insolvency Framework is at 14.5/16 (Note: These figures cannot be compared with the 2014 set of indicators due to changes in methodology). (Official Gazette of the Philippines, Ease of Doing Business – Gameplan for Competitveness, accessed on November 13, 2016, http://www.gov.ph/governance/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Q1-Q2-2015-EASE.pdf)

[6] Focus Group Discussion, National Competitive Council (NCC) Staff. Held on 12 October 2016 at NCC Office, Makati City.

[7] Doing Business: Business Reforms in Philippines http://www.doingbusiness.org/reforms/overview/economy/philippines.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

[10] National Competitiveness Council. Response to the Questionnaire of the IRM Researcher for the End of Term Report. Sent on October 6, 2017.

[11] Ibid.

[12] PH-OGP. End of Term Self-Assessment Report. October 2017.

[13] National Competitiveness Council. Response to the Questionnaire of the IRM Researcher for the End of Term Report. Sent on October 6, 2017.

[14] PH-OGP 4th National Action Plan 2017-2019. June 30, 2017.

Commitment 11. Local government competitiveness

Commitment Text:

- *Difficulty in gathering data at city and municipality level;*
- *Sustainability of data collection affected by funding*
- *Time lag in national data surveys.*

The objective is to design and provide a diagnostic tool that can be used by LGU officials in assessing their level of competitiveness and identifying areas for improvement and collaboration

Responsible institution: National Competitiveness Council (NCC)

Supporting institution(s): Department of Trade and Industry, National Economic Development Authority – Philippine Statistics Authority, Department of Interior and Local Government. Academe, Local Business Groups

Start date: 1 May 2014

End date: 31 July 2015

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion				Midterm / End of Term				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
11. Local government competitiveness				✓	✓			✓		✓						✓ / ✓			✓		

Commitment Aim

The commitment aimed to support the design and implementation of the City and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI), a tool that local government units (LGUs) can use to assess their competitiveness and identify areas for improvement and collaboration.[1] This aimed to encourage LGUs to improve their competitiveness consistently over time. Specifically, it aimed to cover all 144 cities across the country, increase the number of LGUs covered from 1,120 to 1,232, and improve on the preliminary target of overall competitiveness score of 20 percent of total number of LGUs covered and institutionalize the CMCI.

Status

Midterm: Complete

As of Midterm, all the deliverables of the commitment were accomplished. The number cities covered increased from 142 in 2015 to 144 in 2016; the number of LGUs covered increased

from 1,120 in 2015 to 1,389 in 2016. Further, 57 out of 142 cities (40 percent) and 391 out of 978 (40 percent) municipalities improved their overall competitiveness index score in 2016. Procedures for collecting data were also completed and have been institutionalized through a memorandum of agreements with relevant agencies.[2]

End-of-term: Complete

Though this deliverable was completed as of Midterm, the NCC reports that it exceeded its own target for 2017, covering a total of 1,487 local governments. It was also able to cover the newly converted city, General Trias.[3] The CMCI's website also remains operational with the latest survey results.

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Marginal

The commitment has generated, systematized, and publicized information on the competitiveness of local governments, information that was not accessible before. The 40 percent increase in the level of competitiveness of the LGUs that were covered by assessment indicates change in practices to improve competitiveness, specifically practices related to economic dynamism, government efficiency, and infrastructure.[4] This indicates that LGUs acted on the early findings of CMCI to improve their competitiveness, and that progress can be scaled up and sustained. One gap that has been repeatedly raised in interviews is whether the public is accessing the information and using it to engage government,[5] particularly in improving local government's performance on competitiveness. This is viewed by stakeholders as important for ensuring that the gains of this initiative are sustained.

Carried Forward?

This commitment will not be carried forward in the next national action plan. According to NCC, this is because all the deliverables have been completed.[6] The IRM researcher recommends that the program continues its work, focusing on making the CMCI data user-friendly, actionable, and accessible to citizens. Closer attention should be paid to how LGUs act upon the CMCI findings to undertake reforms that improve their competitiveness, particularly focusing on LGUs that have not improved their scores. The IRM researcher also reaffirms the recommendation to harmonize the CMCI with other relevant assessment indices for efficiency and greater impact.[7]

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[1] The Index provides a picture of how local government units are performing in terms of economic dynamism, government efficiency, and infrastructure: Economic dynamism was scored according to the size and growth of the local economy as measured by business registrations, capital, revenues and occupancy permits; capacity to generate employment; cost of living; cost of doing business; financial deepening; productivity; and presence of business and professional organizations. Government efficiency was based on data on transparency scores, economic governance scores, local taxes and revenues, local competition-related awards, business registration efficiency, investment promotion, compliance to national directives, security, health and education. Infrastructure scores were based on data on the existing road network, distance from city center to major ports, Department of Tourism-accredited accommodations, health infrastructure, education infrastructure, basic utilities, infrastructure investments, ICT connection, ATMs and public transportation. (See Inquirer, Manila is most competitive city; Davao Sur for provinces, Amy Remo, 17 July 2015. Available at: http://business.inquirer.net/195432/manila-is-most-competitive-city-davao-sur-for-provinces#ixzz4PuTIPm71)

[2] For details, see Aceron, Joy. 2017. Philippines Progress Report, 2015-2017. Open Government Partnership Independent Reporting Mechanism.

[3] National Competitiveness Council. Response to the Questionnaire of the IRM Researcher for the End of Term Report. Sent on October 6, 2017.

[4] The Index provides a picture of how local government units are performing in terms of economic dynamism, government efficiency, and infrastructure: Economic dynamism was scored according to the size and growth of the local economy as measured by business registrations, capital, revenues and occupancy permits; capacity to generate employment; cost of living; cost of doing business; financial deepening; productivity; and presence of business and professional organizations. Government efficiency was based on data on transparency scores, economic governance scores, local taxes and revenues, local competition-related awards, business registration

efficiency, investment promotion, compliance to national directives, security, health and education. Infrastructure scores were based on data on the existing road network, distance from city center to major ports, Department of Tourism-accredited accommodations, health infrastructure, education infrastructure, basic utilities, infrastructure investments, ICT connection, ATMs and public transportation. (See Inquirer, Manila is most competitive city; Davao Sur for provinces, Amy Remo, 17 July 2015. Available at: http://business.inquirer.net/195432/manila-is-most-competitive-city-davao-sur-for-provinces#ixzz4PuTIPm71)

[5] Manila is the most competitive city; Davao Sur for provinces, Amy Remo, 17 July 2015. Available at: http://business.inquirer.net/195432/manila-is-most-competitive-city-davao-sur-for-provinces#ixzz4PuTIPm71

[6] National Competitiveness Council. Response to the Questionnaire of the IRM Researcher for the End of Term Report. Sent on October 6, 2017.

[7] Ibid.

Commitment 12. Public-Private Sector Dialogue on Inclusive Growth

Commitment Text:
There is already an existing structure of collaboration, consultation, and dialogue among the business organizations via the PBG-JFC. In 2013, the PBG-JFC started an annual practice of consulting with each other and reaching out to government to present a unified list of recommendations that the business community believes will lead to inclusive growth. Eventually, the PBG-JFC consultation model became an effective venue in discussing and finding solutions to critical issues of national interest (2015 power reserves gap, Manila port congestion, etc.) The Philippine Congress has actually institutionalized this consultation meeting via twice a year meetings to align legislative priorities. Nevertheless, despite a previous commitment from government to likewise hold quarterly business-executive branch consultations, there have only been two such meetings between the executive branch and the private sector since 2013. This commitment seeks to reinvigorate this consultation and dialogue structure between business and government, and through this achieve the ultimate end-goal of improving public service delivery through constructive engagement between government and the private sector. Main objective is to reinvigorate and institutionalize government and business sector collaboration through regular dialogues, and alignment of priorities.

Relevance - The commitment is relevant to advance the OGP values of public accountability and civic participation. The establishment of this 35 platform for public-private collaboration and dialogue seeks to guarantee consistent implementation of policies; advocate for needed economic, social, and political reforms; and ensure adherence to commitments made either by government or the private sector. The proposed joint public-private secretariat gives the private sector the necessary space to take and an active and direct part in agenda-setting and policy formulation. Meanwhile, the regular and formal meetings between government and the business community holds government accountable to stakeholders with regard to their development and legislative agenda.

Ambition - The intended result is for government and the business sector to have a venue for dynamic and continuing collaboration and dialogue, wherein the priorities of both parties are aligned, the private sector takes an active part in policy formulation, both the public and private sectors adhere to their commitments--all of which can ultimately lead to improved public service delivery.

Responsible institution: Department of Finance

Supporting institution(s): Economic Development Cluster of the Cabinet; Makati Business Club, Philippine Business Groups-Joint Foreign Chambers (PBG-JFC)

Start date: 1 July 2015

End date: 31 December 2017

Commitment Overview	Specificity	OGP Value Relevance (as written)	Potential Impact	Completion	Midterm / End of Term	Did It Open Government?

	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency &	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
12. Public-Private Sector Dialogue		✓			Unclear					✓				✓					✓		
														✓							

Commitment Aim

This commitment aimed to reinvigorate and institutionalize collaboration between the government and the business sector through regular dialogue to align priorities. It aimed to tap an existing structure of business collaboration, the Philippine Business Groups - Joint Foreign Chambers (PBG-JFC). The PDG-JFC represents 2,933 companies and members of the private sector. Specifically, the commitment aimed to: (1) establish a joint public-private secretariat that will organize and support regular dialogues; (2) organize meetings among the heads of the PBG-JFC and the Cabinet's Economic Development Cluster to discuss priority issues and recommendations; (3) publish one assessment report on the Public and Private Sector High Level Dialogues; (4) facilitate discussions among PBG-JFC local partners and affiliates on pressing issues; (5) engage other stakeholders in the discussion of pressing issues relevant to the business sector, especially civil society organizations (CSOs) and people's organizations (POs).

Status

Midterm: Limited

None of the deliverables had been completed as of the Midterm. The PBG-JFC formed a secretariat in August 2015, which has subsequently convened two dialogues. The PBG-JFC also brought stakeholders from several major industries together at a 2016 roundtable on trade and investment liberalization. At time of writing the Midterm report, the assessment report on the Public and Private Sector High Level Dialogues has not been completed. The PBG-JFC was also yet to undertake local engagement, nor had it engaged with other stakeholders.[1]

End-of-term: Limited

Little progress was made on the deliverables, except for a report prepared by PGB-JFC. The report found that 10 out of 38 recommendations from 2013 to 2015 have been sufficiently addressed, with 15 (39 percent) already being acted upon, which indicates the presence of a reporting and monitoring system.[2] The recommendations range from the adoption of policies and laws affecting the private sector (e.g. National Transport Plan, Cabotage Law, Anti-Trust Law and Competition Policy), bureaucratic reforms (e.g. overhauling the Bureau of Customs and ensuring conformity of local ordinances to national policies) and achievement of developmental outcomes (e.g. lowering the cost of electricity and improving agricultural productivity).

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Did not change

Civic participation: Marginal (only relevant to private sector)

Public Accountability: Did not change

The private sector plays a part in propelling the economy and it is a critical development partner for the government. The commitment provided space for the business sector to regularly engage in dialogue with the government. Before this, there was no regular and institutionalized space for such a dialogue and no mechanism to assess progress in the agreements between the private sector and government. Roxanne Lu, head of the PBG-JFC secretariat in the Makati Business Club, stated that the dialogue was useful in resolving issues between government and the business sector.[3] Though it could be improved, the response being generated by the recommendations from the PBG-JFC indicates the potential effectiveness of this mechanism.

Although these are important improvements to increase private sector participation in areas of economic development, the challenges of getting the government to regularly attend the dialogues and to report regularly to PH-OGP secretariat[4] is indicative of the limitation and weakness of this platform.

Carried Forward?

This commitment has not been carried forward in the next action plan. According to the end-of-term self-assessment report, dialogues among stakeholders, including government, business, and non-government sectors, will take place through a new forum called the "Dutertenomic Forum." So far this forum has convened several summits on key concerns such as agriculture, health, and education.[5]

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[1] For details, see Aceron, Joy. 2017. Philippines Progress Report, 2015-2017. Open Government Partnership Independent Reporting Mechanism.
[2] A copy of the report is provided to the IRM researcher by Roxanne Lu, Director-Programs and Projects Unit and Maane Cauton, Makita Business Club (MBC) (MBC) through an email communication on October 15, 2016.
[3] Roxanne Lu, Director-Programs and Projects Unit and Maane Cauton, Makita Business Club (MBC) (MBC). Interview on 12 October 2016 at MBC Office.
[4] For details, see Aceron, Joy. 2017. Philippines Progress Report, 2015-2017. Open Government Partnership Independent Reporting Mechanism.
[5] PH-OGP. End of Term Self-Assessment Report. October 2017.

Commitment 13. Integrity Initiative on Corporate Accountability

Commitment Text:
Public sector corruption will not thrive without the participation of the private sector. Many companies in the Philippines bribe government officials in order to win government contracts or expedite government processes. The Integrity Initiative was launched in December 2010 to help create a culture of integrity within both the public and private sector. After more than four years, over 3,000 corporations, government agencies, and non-profit organizations, have signed an Integrity Pledge where signatories commit themselves and their respective organizations not to engage in bribery and other unethical business practices. However, this remains to be a small proportion of the total number of corporations/organizations in the country. In order to expand this number significantly, government as a whole must come out with specific policy issuances that will encourage organizations to sign the Integrity Pledge, as some government agencies and even government owned corporations (e.g. Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Education, PEZA, Subic Bay Management Authority, Clark Development Corporation, John Hay Management Corporation and Development Bank of the Philippines) have done. The mainc objective is to institutionalize public and corporate accountability, integrity, and transparency by cultivating through the promotion of common ethical and acceptable integrity standards by the public and private sector. Relevance - This commitment is relevant in promoting Public Accountability and Civic Participation. This collaborative effort between the government and the business sector aims to: a) provide incentives for good corporate behavior; and b) create a mechanism through which the private sector can seek redress and/or remediation of integrity issues both in the public and private sectors. Government will play a crucial role in recognizing entities that will follow OGP principles and observe the highest ethical standards in dealing with the public sector.

Ambition - This initiative seeks to significantly expand the number of organizations that sign the Integrity Pledge. These organizations will be required to implement strict integrity management programs themselves. It is hoped that signing the Integrity Pledge will become a requirement in private sector participation in government procurement activities, thereby increasing public sector integrity and safeguarding public resources.

Responsible institution: Integrity Initiative, Inc.

Supporting institution(s): Department of Budget and Management/Government Procurement Policy Board. Makati Business Club, Philippine Business Groups-Joint Foreign Chambers (PBG-JFC

Start date: 1 August 2015

End date: 31 December 2017

Commitment Overview	Specificity	OGP Value Relevance (as written)	Potential Impact	Completion	Midterm / End of Term	Did It Open Government?

	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency &	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
13. Integrity initiative on corporate accountability			✓		Unclear						✓			✓				✓			

Commitment Aim

This commitment aims to institutionalize public and corporate accountability, integrity, and transparency through the Integrity Initiative. The integrity Initiative aims to cultivate and promote common ethical and acceptable standards of integrity in the public and private sector. More specifically, this commitment sets out to enlist 3,000 Integrity Pledge signatories in 2015, 5,000 in 2016, and 10,000 in 2017. The commitment also aims to issue and pass a policy in support of the Integrity Initiative.[1]

Status

Midterm: Limited

As of Midterm, the level of completion of this commitment was limited. While several advocacy and outreach events took place to support the achieving the target, it was not reached. 2,636 out of 3,000 signatories were secured in 2015 and 3,755 out of 5,000 were reached in 2016. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has yet to issue a policy in support of the Integrity Initiative.

End-of-term: Limited

At the time of writing this report, the number of signatories remains unchanged.[2] The DBM has not passed a specific policy adopting and/or supporting Integrity Initiative. Although some parameters of the Integrity Initiative have been incorporated into procurement policy, this is still limited and may not achieve the desired impact as a separate Integrity Initiative policy or program.

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Did Not Change

Civic Participation: Did Not Change

Public Accountability: Did Not Change

The commitment is not immediately relevant to any OGP values. However, many private sector players were willing to be subjected to integrity standards. This is a milestone that can be built on to achieve more systemic gains, such as policies that link compliance to those standards with the eligibility of these businesses as service providers in government procurements. Encouraging integrity in the private sector also indirectly addresses corruption in government, since the private sector is often on the other side of illegal transactions. However, the initiators must watch out for reversal of gains. Cheska Castillo of the Integrity Initiative pointed out that the Integrity Pledge adopted by the Department of Public Works and Highways, an agency with a reputation for corruption, has since been abandoned by its new secretary.[3]

Carried Forward?

This initiative has not been carried forward. For this initiative to contribute to more ambitious corruption prevention,[4] the IRM researcher recommends that the Integrity Initiative secretariat in the Makati Business Club focus on actions taken on integrity issues which surfaced through the certification system. This includes those involving corporate accountability and anti-corruption measures. Reviewing the indicators to include standards that are important to deter corrupt activities, such as anti-bribe measures, would also strengthen this anti-corruption effort. Mainstreaming the integrity pledge as a requirement of government in its transactions with the private sector and monitoring compliance to these integrity indicators are also good next steps to pursue.

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[1] For details, see Aceron, Joy. 2017. Philippines Progress Report, 2015-2017. Open Government Partnership Independent Reporting Mechanism.
[2] The list of signatories is available at http://integrityinitiative.com/signatories/.
[3] Documentation Report. Roundtable discussion on 'Did it Open Government' organized by Government Watch. October 12, 2017.
[4] Aceron, Joy. 2017. Philippines Progress Report, 2015-2017. Open Government Partnership Independent Reporting Mechanism.

Methodological Note

The end-of-term report is based on desk research and interviews with governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders. The IRM report builds on the findings of the government's self-assessment report; other assessments of progress put out by civil society, the private sector, or international organizations; and the previous IRM progress report.

This report uses relevant data from the interviews conducted for the progress report, particularly questions that referred to the impact and added value of OGP. News reports, assessment studies, and relevant official documents were reviewed to confirm reported accomplishments and assess results and impact. Commitment holders were invited to respond to a questionnaire and attend a roundtable discussion.

The questionnaire asked for sources and documents that may serve as evidence for the accomplishments reported in the end-of-term self-assessment report prepared by PH-OGP Secretariat and published on 9 October, 2017. The following agencies and offices responded to the questionnaire: Open Data (Raisa Perez, Department of Science and Technology, responded on 22 September 2017); Commission on Audit (the Project Management Office responded on 22 September 2017); National Competitiveness Council (Faisah Dela Rosa responded on 6 October 2017); Civil Service Commission (Fia Salumbides responded on 9 October 2017); Public Assistance and Information Office (Jesse Robredo responded in October 2017); Institute of Governance (Jason Hecita responded on 9 October 2017); and INCITEGov (Nino Versoza responded on 13 October 2017).

A roundtable discussion that took place on October 12, 2017 focused on the question "Did the OGP commitments for 2015-2017 national action plan open government?" The discussion was attended by commitment holders and non-commitment holders who engage in open government reforms. Annex 1 contains a list of participants and a documentation report.

Joy Aceron is the Convenor-Director of G-Watch (www.g-watch.org) and a Research Fellow at the Accountability Research Center (ARC) based in the School of International Service at American University. A graduate of the University of the Philippines-Diliman with a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public policy, Joy has 15 years' experience in citizen monitoring, citizenship education and civil society-government engagement and has published works on civil society participation, political reform and vertically-integrated citizen-led reform campaigns. Joy has been invited to over 20 countries all over the world to speak at international conferences and facilitate learning workshops on accountability, policy reform, and civil society.

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, to empower citizens, to fight corruption, and to harness new technologies to strengthen governance. OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism assesses development and implementation of national action plans to foster dialogue among stakeholders and to improve accountability.

Open Government Partnership

GOVERNMENTWATCH
Citizen Action for Accountability

Annex 1

Did PH-OPG Open Government?
G-Watch – OGP-IRM Roundtable Discussion
Lafayette Room, Astoria Plaza, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
October 12, 2017

Documentation Report
G-Watch Center

A. Attendance

1. Ms. Luningning Bendoy – Damayan ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api (DAMPA)
2. Ms. Gigile Saguran – Damayan ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api (DAMPA)
3. Ms. Marianne Fabian – Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
4. Ms. Odessa Taguibao – Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
5. Dir. Rolando Toledo – Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
6. Ms. Adrienne Alquiros – De La Salle University-Jesse M. Robredo Institute of Governance (DLSU-JRIG)
7. Ms. Cheska Castillo – Integrity Initiative
8. Mr. Vince Eugenio – Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor (PCUP)
9. Ms. Melissa Navarra – Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor (PCUP)
10. Ms. Joy Aceron – Government Watch (G-Watch)
11. Ms. Marianne Camu-dela Cueva – Government Watch (G-Watch)
12. Mr. Francis Isaac – Government Watch (G-Watch)
13. Mr. Rechie Tugawin – Government Watch (G-Watch)

B. Roundtable Proper

B.1. *Preliminaries*

The Roundtable started at 1:40PM with a formal round of introductions.

Ms. Joy Aceron of G-Watch said that the aim of the activity is to provide a space for stakeholders to give inputs on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) process. Specifically, it seeks to answer the question: “Did PH-OGP open government?”

B.2. *Guide Questions*

1. How did any PH-OGP the commitments in the third national action plan contribute in making quality and useful information accessible to the public?
2. How did any PH-OGP the commitments in the third national action plan in supporting mechanisms/ spaces and capacities to make citizens/ public better influence public decisions?
3. How did any PH-OGP the commitments in the third national action plan contribute in enabling accountability?

B.3. *On Transparency*

According to Ms. Aceron, OGP has created a momentum that puts pressure on government to make data available and processes more transparent. This has contributed in establishing new norms in government. However, she pointed out that while several open data mechanisms have been created and there is now a profusion of available data, these are not being used by citizens.

Ms. Adrienne Alquiros of DLSU-JRIG added that the creation of a Full Disclosure Policy (FDP) portal was an innovative idea. It assumed that by making government data available online, they can now be easily accessed by the public. However, this mechanism suffers from two weaknesses: (1) the intermittent internet connection in the Philippines; and (2) documents that are being uploaded are too technical to be understood by ordinary citizens. To make these data useful, she suggested that infographics be developed. Ms. Aceron agrees with the proposal, but she also pointed out that having infographics does not mean that these will be automatically used by citizens to generate demand. She further stated that civil society organizations (CSOs) are beginning to demand barangay-level information. This is important especially since PH-OGP aggregates data at the national level, even though the data is from the local level.

For her part, Ms. Marianne Fabian of DBM stated that all the PH-OGP commitments have transparency commitments, and most of these commitments have been delivered (e.g., FDP, e-FOI). OGP, therefore, has greatly contributed in making government more transparent. She also added that as June 2017, a total of 157 government agencies are now part of Open Data Philippines (ODP). However, this mechanism leaves little room for elaboration since it only indicates whether the commitment-holders have completed their commitments or not. On the other hand, CSOs have to find resources for their commitments. One CSO that has done so is INCITEGov.

Following Ms. Fabian, Ms. Aceron said that there was an impression that CSOs that will take part in PH-OGP will be given funding support so that they meet their commitments. One key lesson from this experience is that funds will not always be available. But it is possible for CSOs to leverage for resources. This was done by Citizens Participatory Audit (CPA), for example.

Ms. Fabian replied by stating that in the report PH-OGP Secretariat, there is a column to determine if CSOs require funding assistance. The data from this report, she added, can be linked to donors. As a rejoinder, Ms. Aceron said that the issue of CSO funding should be seriously addressed. OGP assumes that the commitments can be leveraged to access resources.

At this point, Ms. Luningning Bendoy of DAMPA joined the discussion by stating that their organization operates at the grassroots level to assist indigent communities on the issue of housing. They are currently implementing a program with Save the Children Foundation that provides counseling to children who have been traumatized by their experience of eviction and relocation. DAMPA is also assisting communities and grassroots CSOs in engaging local government units (LGUs) in order to access basic services. Ms. Bendoy further stated that it is important for the poor to access LGU services since that is where they live and work. When asked by Ms. Aceron where they get the information regarding LGU programs, Ms. Bendoy replied that apart from the information available online, some of them also work in local government.

Ms. Gigile Saguran, on the other hand, is a *barangay* (village) volunteer from Quezon City and also a member of DAMPA. Since their village was prone to flooding, they proposed a riffraffing project under the BUB program. Unfortunately, the BUB was rescinded even before the project could be implemented. But the riffraffing project was eventually started under the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities (ADM).

For her part, Ms. Melissa Navarra of PCUP said that their involvement in OGP only began just this year. They are currently assisting the housing needs of 18 communities under the People's Plan program, which was given a Php1.8 billion fund. She further observed that there is a clamor for people's planning. In order to reach out to more communities, the

Commission has adopted the community organizing- community development approach (CO-CD).

Ms. Fabian added that the PH-OGP Secretariat has invited other national government agencies (NGAs) to the OGP, but it was only PCUP that answered their invitation. One realization from this experience, according to Ms. Fabian, is that agencies can harmonize their programs. Ms. Aceron interjected that PH-OGP should start, not with mechanisms, but with issues that are felt by ordinary citizens

B.4. *On Participation*

Ms. Aceron observed that the PH-OGP commitments on participation are limited to BUB, the Kapit-bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS) and the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) though indirectly, since the Seal is a requirement for an LGU to get loan.

Ms. Adrienne Alquiros pointed out that there are CSOs demanding to see the PH-OGP reports on citizens' participation. People are also not aware that there is a website called the Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS) that serves as a self-assessment tool of LGUs in their delivery of public services. On a positive note, she said that with these mechanisms, we can now see the areas of LGU performance.

Ms. Fabian responded to the points that were raised by first stating that though the government is focused on implementation, it should now view information as part of service-delivery. She also added that while the SGLG is no longer part of the country's OGP commitments, it is still part of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP). At the same time, the FDP was also dropped from the PH-OGP commitments because the pertinent agencies simply redo the previous targets. At the same, the PH-OGP Secretariat noticed that the Department of Finance (DoF) has not been submitting their reports indicating the status of their commitments. This is probably because the commitments came from the private sector (particularly from Mr. Peter Perfecto of Makati Business Club). Just the same, it is not clear how these commitments have generated participation.

For her part, Ms. Cheska Castillo of Integrity Initiative said that they try to influence the business community in ensuring transparency as they deal with government. Following this point, Ms. Fabian revealed that there are government agencies that now require businesses to first sign the Integrity Pledge before they can join public biddings. But Ms. Castillo interjected saying that the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) initially adopted this policy, but it was abandoned after Mark Villar became the Secretary. That being said, Integrity Initiative will continue to promote integrity standards in business.

But Ms. Aceron said that despite these efforts, it is still difficult to get information from the businesses. She also pointed that ensuring information access is important because corruption also occurs in the private sector. To address this challenge, Ms. Aceron suggested that the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) model be used to promote integrity in the business sector. Ms. Fabian responded by stating that the said proposal has recently been included in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Republic Act 9184. She also added that it might be good to discuss whether the said law should be revised altogether.

At this point, Ms. Aceron asked the question: Can government decisions now be influenced by citizens' voice?

Ms. Melissa Navarra answered by citing PCUP's experience with their 18 sites, wherein government was forced to respond to citizens' voice due to intense public pressure. Apart from organizing and mobilization, the residents in the said sites were able to find facilitators or champions from government. The role of facilitators is very important in order to break the culture of silence that pervades most resettlement communities. But once the urban poor become aware of their rights, it then becomes the catalyst for movement building.

On the other, Ms. Saguran said that LGUs typically do not listen to citizens, especially if they are not allies of the local chief executive (LCE). On the other hand, local governments will respond to demands from citizens if there are "champions" on top. She added, "*Kung ano ang kulay ng LGU, 'yun 'yung kulay ng t-shirt 'pag bibisita ako sa LGU*."

Hearing this, Ms. Aceron said that it is important for citizens to have a plan in engaging government. The question, however, is whether civil society is capable of engaging government?

In reply, Mr. Vince Eugenio of PCUP that there was great optimism among CSOs when mechanisms for participation began opening up. However, these groups became exhausted as time went by. While mechanisms were opening, the volume of work also began to increase. This also meant that CSOs had to allocate added administrative costs and manpower for organizing, even though no additional funds were being provided. Mr. Eugenio concluded by asking this question: While we are opening up, how do we make the process more participatory and engaging?

Ms. Fabian responded, saying that it is clear to the PH-OGP Secretariat that they will not make decisions without talking to their civil society partners. However, they do recognize the uneven capacity of CSOs in influencing government. That is why the direction should be localization and co-creating more commitments that have direct impact on people.

As a follow up to Ms. Fabian's comments, Ms. Aceron raised the issue of state funding for CSOs which has been a continuing debate in the Philippines.

Ms. Fabian replied by stating that there are those from government that are open to the idea. However, the question of avoiding CSO capture still needs to be addressed. At the same time, the Commission on Audit (COA) has a strict and procedural interpretation when it comes to CSO reporting.

On this issue, Mr. Eugenio suggested that they ask COA why it supported the CPA. Ms. Aceron followed up, saying that COA is an oversight agency, and that the nature of its function prevents CSO capture. This open up the possibility of state funding for CSO that undertakes monitoring and accountability work, but it be used for organizing.

Mr. Eugenio added that CSOs that will ask for state support will be using it to conduct activities and not for institutional building. Ms. Aceron, however, doubt whether government can provide support without using it to leverage against civil society. She added that in Brazil, participatory budgeting was institutionalized because they have a relatively strong party system—a mechanism that is absent in the Philippines.

Ms. Bendoy jumped into the discussion, saying that LGUs are able to provide social services, but access to this services depend on one's political color, as in the case of San Jose del Monte in Bulacan. In fact, in that area, CSO leaders have practically become co-terminus with the Mayor. Another challenge that needs to be addressed is inter-CSO dynamics. As an example, some of their members living along a creek were awarded with 500 housing units in Bulacan. But these were forcibly occupied by KADAMAY. DAMPA initiated a dialogue

prompting KADAMAY to leave the area. But other residents from the area quickly moved in, further displacing the actual awardees.

This prompted a "philosophical question" from Mr. Eugenio: "*Sino ba 'yung CSO na kausap natin? Do we talk to some CSOs and not others kasi sila lang yung kayang mag-comply sa mga requirements ng gubyerno?*"

Ms. Navarra answered by saying that the problem lies with the LGU sine they accredit CSOs based on patronage. But Ms. Aceron pointed out that national government agencies (NGAs) can also be selective because of their logistical limitation. It is impossible for them to accommodate all CSOs without putting a strain on their resources. But Ms. Navarra replied that in the case of NGAs, their selection of CSOs is based on whether their concerns are aligned with their mandate.

Ms. Fabian, on the other hand, said that government can be liberal in allowing CSOs that want to participate in various processes. However, civil society groups have to be duly accredited if they want to access funds. Dir. Rolando Toledo of DBM, for his part, emphasized the need to streamline the process of CSO accreditation, as per the instruction of President Rodrigo Duterte. Ms. Aceron followed this up, saying that mechanisms should be in place to ensure the ease of doing civil society work.

B.5. *On Accountability*

Ms. Aceron observed that PH-OGP has very immediate accountability commitments, namely CPA and the Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA). Ms. Fabian agreed with this observed, but said that this is because PH-OGP is currently focused on transparency and participation. That being said, the Duterte administration is serious in its attempt to promote accountability through its Masa-Masid program and in its efforts to expand the CPA. There is also a proposal to establish an "Office for Participatory Governance." And though the accountability-related commitments may be limited, the agencies that are part of OGP are now aware that their performance and commitments are being monitored by various stakeholders. At the same, Sec. Benjamin Diokno of DBM has said that he wants quarterly monitoring of OGP commitments.

Dir. Toledo added that President Duterte wants to avoid underspending since it results in delayed implementation of projects. The current administration wants the agencies to be accountable for their funds, which is why performance indicators have been incorporated in the budget. Regarding the budget, the President's instructions is clear: "Use it or lose it." This means that officials who are not able to use their budget will lose their jobs.

At this point, Ms. Aceron said that the previous commitments included justice reform. To achieve justice, we both need preventive and punitive mechanisms. The Philippines has already instituted a number of preventive mechanisms. However, the country's system of punishment remains weak. In fact, there is a perception that there is no cost for a public official for being corrupt or for being not corrupt. This is important to highlight since punishment has a deterrence effect.

Ms. Fabian admitted that the issue of justice reform is one of the major challenges confronting the PH-OGP Secretariat. They wrote to all anti-corruption institutions—namely the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) and the Supreme Court. Talks were also organized led by Alternative Law Groups (ALG) to come up with justice reform-related PH-OGP commitments. Unfortunately, DOJ declined to be part of OGP. The OMB, on the other hand, was interested in the OGP process and suggested the E-SALN as their commitment. Unfortunately, it has no transparency component. Because of

these setbacks, PH-OGP decided to focus on Masa-Masid as a means of bringing accountability to the grassroots.

Following Ms. Fabian's insights, Ms. Aceron said that there are two kinds of accountability: upward accountability and downward accountability. The Philippines is relatively strong in upward accountability. The challenge, however, is developing downward accountability. We should therefore develop mechanisms that would promote downward accountability, which could serve as leverage that citizens can use to force government to respond to their demands. At the same time, it is not yet clear how effective is the Philippines in terms of demand-driven information.

Ms. Saguran replied by stating that DAMPA has been asking their partner LGUs and barangays for their budget. They are particularly interested in the amount of their Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) and how they are being used. However, most local governments are reluctant to give information. On the other hand, more-and-more barangays are posting their Citizens' Charter in compliance with the full disclosure policy.

For his part, Mr. Eugenio pointed out that most NGAs already have their respective Freedom of Information (FOI) manual. Their challenge is how to harmonize FOI with data privacy policy.

Dir. Rolando Toledo said that citizens can go to a government agency and they will be directed to the proper office. Ms. Adrienne Alquiros said that DLSU-JRIG has partner universities in Naga, Cagayan de Oro and Iloilo City. Their partners in Naga and CDO experienced no problem getting data from government. On the other hand, their partner in Iloilo had difficulty doing so.

Ms. Aceron observed that there is power asymmetry and those who are abused are the ones with the least power. She therefore wondered how PH-OGP contributes in addressing power asymmetry.

In response, Mr. Eugenio emphasized the need to go down to the community to determine the kind of information that they need. He was seconded by Ms. Navarra, who said that by organizing hard-to-reach populations, government is able to bring down information and make citizens aware of their basic rights.

B.6. *Value-Added of OGP*

At this point, Ms. Aceron asked the participants to reflect on the value-added of OGP.

Ms. Alquiros looked at the "macro-view of open government," and said that the Philippines is the one of the few if not the only country with a Steering Committee from both the government and non-government sectors. Ms. Castillo agreed with this point, adding that OGP has helped improved the participation of CSOs, especially in the co-creation of action plans.

Dir. Toledo, on the other hand, said that there should be more emphasis on the implementation of projects and programs in order for these commitments to be felt at the grassroots. Following this point, Ms. Saguran said that OGP is "*hindi ramdam sa baba*." However, there are CSOs that are aware of these processes which then try to articulate the interests of ordinary citizens. But there are also free-riders. As she pointed out, "*Kami po ay naiimbitahan sa mga proseso, kaya may alam. Pero hindi ito alam ng mga nagtotong-its, pero kasama pa rin sila sa mga pinaglalaban namin.*"

For her part, Ms. Fabian said that initially, NGAs are not tied to the commitments. But at present, more agencies now know about OGP. This gives the agencies the opportunity to harmonize their programs. At the same time, Masa-Masid has been adopted by PH-OGP Steering Committee and has been included in the FY 2018 Budget. This means that whether it is part of OGP or not, it will be budgeted by the government. DILG, on the other hand, tied its OGP narrative to ADM which enabled it to get funding from DBM. For its part, lodging the Secretariat in DBM proved strategic since the said Department has the needed clout to convene both government and civil society.

Mr. Eugenio said that OGP has forced the government to comply with certain standards. But it's still a long way before compliance becomes systems and systems become culture. That's the challenge, he said.

Dir. Toledo added that OGP serves as a bridge between national government agencies and CSOs and has become a platform for participatory governance.

While recognizing the positive contribution of OGP, Ms. Aceron reminded the participants to be aware of open-washing, which is now becoming an issue in other countries.

B.7. *Closing Remarks*

Ms. Aceron thanked everyone for attending the roundtable discussion. The insights that have been shared will serve as inputs for the End-of-Term Report of the OGP-IRM.

Based on the discussion, the participants all share a common philosophical premise: that of letting go (of power) so that others can check you. She also said that the challenge that we now face is how the public can access relevant information that can be leveraged by ordinary citizens to make government more responsive.