



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
MALACAÑANG, MANILA

June 13, 2014

Linda Frey
Executive Director
Open Government Partnership Support Unit

Dear Linda,

It has been a privilege for the Philippines to sit on the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee, and we would like to express our intent to run for another term.

We have gained much through our membership in OGP, which has opened the doors for us to engage other governments and civil society networks. Such engagements have led to the implementation of new initiatives in the Philippines (such as open data, transparency in the extractive industries) and has helped advance existing initiatives (such as participatory budgeting). At the same time, we have also shared our OGP experiences to other countries through various bilateral engagements.

The Philippines has been able to contribute to the movement through its active participation in the Steering Committee and we have also committed human and financial resources to help with OGP operations. In several instances, our officials have also taken the opportunity provided by other international conferences to promote OGP to non-member countries.

More important, the Philippines has strived to continuously improve how we craft and implement our OGP Action Plan. We have taken the Country Self-Assessment and the Independent Reporting Mechanism Assessment reports seriously, and have adopted many of their recommendations. A Philippine OGP Steering Committee, composed of representatives from government, civil society and business associations, has been created in order to oversee the implementation of our OGP activities and commitments. This committee is now drawing up the process for crafting a co-created OGP Action Plan.

We believe that the Philippines commitment to OGP - both at the national and international level, and our experience as an active steering committee member would benefit the next Steering Committee as the movement enters a phase wherein the rapid gains from the past three years have to be consolidated to ensure the movement's sustainability.

If the Philippines will again have the opportunity to serve in the OGP Steering Committee, the following persons will be our Key Contacts:

- Steering Committee Representative: Secretary Florencio Abad, Department of Budget and Management (Minister level)
- Alternate Representatives: Secretary Edwin Lacierda, Presidential Spokesperson (Minister level) and Undersecretary Richard Moya, Department of Budget and Management
- Contact point: Director Patrick Lim, Reforms and Innovations Unit, Department of Budget and Management

We are committed to ensure high level Philippine representation in all OGP Steering Committee meetings and Conferences and will also be available to represent the Steering Committee in other international conferences.

A dedicated team consisting of three people is responsible for the conduct of various OGP related activities in the Philippines. This team also provides technical assistance for our representatives in the OGP Steering Committee. If necessary, the support of other national agencies can be tapped through the Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Cluster of the Cabinet, the Secretariat of which is housed within the Department of Budget and Management.

We look forward to the next phase in the growth and evolution of the Open Government Partnership.

Very truly yours,



Florencio B. Abad
Secretary