

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS¹
WBG Consultation in Naga
Country Assistance Strategy for the Philippines

1. A one-day Consultation on the new World Bank Country Assistance Strategy was held at Villa Caceres, Naga City, Bicol, on September 29, 2008. This is part of a series of Consultations which were also conducted in Davao City (September 24), Iloilo City (September 26) and in Metro Manila (October 3).
2. The Consultation had the following objectives:
 - a. To increase the WBG's understanding of Government's and various stakeholders' views on the critical development challenges that the Philippines faces;
 - b. To share and discuss policy options and potential programs that could address these challenges and how the World Bank could contribute to solving these challenges; and
 - c. To increase Government's and stakeholders' understanding of the WBG's work in the Philippines.
3. The Workshop was attended by 60 participants from the following provinces: Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Sorsogon. The breakdown of participants is as follows: 32 from the government, 13 from civil society organizations, 14 from the academe, and 1 from the private sector. Please see ***Annex 1*** for the list of participants.
4. The Consultation began at 9:20 AM and ended at 4:57 PM. Please see ***Annex 2*** for the Program of Activities.
5. Participants' inputs were surfaced mainly through the two simultaneous sets of Knowledge Café discussions and, to a lesser extent, through the open forums. The major points raised by the participants are summarized below.
6. The three main questions discussed during the Knowledge Café sessions were:

Question 1: In your view, what are the main causes of the worsening poverty in Bicol and how should these be addressed?

Question 2: In your view, what are the main causes of the inadequate performance of public institutions in Bicol in delivering public services to citizens and how should these be addressed?

Question 3: Given what you know about the World Bank and the country situation, what priority programs should be included in the new Country

¹ Prepared by Raul P. Gonzalez, Consultant, and reviewed by Joey Alegre and Oman Jiao of the Association of Foundations. November 2008.

Assistance Strategy? Please explain. Are there any issues that the World Bank should not be involved in? Why?

7. In response to question 1 of the Knowledge Café, the participants identified the following four main causes of the worsening poverty in their region and suggested the following solutions. Please see *Annex 3* for details.

Table 1. Top Four Causes of the Worsening Poverty Situation in Bicol and Proposed Solutions As Perceived by Participants

MAIN CAUSES	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
a) There is corruption at all levels of government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push for transparent governance. • Reform the justice system to make government officials accountable and impose corresponding punishment on corrupt officials. • Values re-orientation.
b) Bicol is a disaster-prone area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalize a disaster risk management program. • Allocate more resources for Disaster Risk Management. • Let academe engage in Disaster Risk Management and include Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the school curriculum. • Adopt technologies for early maturing crops. • Provide support for post-harvest facilities.
c) The vicious cycle of lack of education and unemployment perpetrates poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create job opportunities: development of countryside industries in Bicol to process agro-based products. • Provide scholarships for formal and vocational training. • Improve the educational system and facilities.
d) Population growth and limited resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Reproductive Health Law (Lagman Law).

8. In response to question 2 of the Knowledge Café, the participants identified the following six main causes of the inadequate performance of public institutions in delivering services to citizens in their region and suggested the following solutions. Please see *Annex 4* for details.

Table 2. Top Six Causes of the Inadequate Performance of Public Institutions in Bicol and Proposed Solutions as Perceived by Participants

MAIN CAUSES	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
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<p>a) Prevalence of corruption.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the current judicial system. • Strengthen people’s participation and involvement in the identification and prosecution of corrupt officials. • Strengthen the auditing system.
<p>b) Wrong priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise political will in selecting and implementing priority solutions. • Government should engage the private sector and civil society in identifying priorities that truly address development needs of the community. • Conduct multi-sectoral consultations, which would include grassroots representatives, to determine priorities.
<p>c) Too much patronage politics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve and implement the currently-proposed electoral reforms. • Conduct values education and capacity building activities for elected officials and even candidates. • Strengthen the judicial system.
<p>d) Lack of research programs and lack of support in developing or implementing research-based projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage the strength of the academe (research) to determine appropriate development priorities. • Translate research findings of the academe into action agenda for implementation.
<p>e) Government officials/workers lack competence to perform their functions and lack of understanding of the capacities, resources, and problems of citizens at the grassroots level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct values education and capacity building activities for government officials and workers. • Conduct development governance education for public officials and other stakeholders. • Candidates for public office should be at least college graduates.
<p>f) Inconsistent national policies and centralized planning, which are not responsive to local conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review local government laws and other laws that contradict each other. • Document local concerns (e.g., problems, thoughts ideas) and bring these to the attention of national government agencies.

9. The participants also suggested the following five priority programs in their region that the World Bank should include in its new CAS. Please see *Annex 5* for details.

Table 3. Top Five Suggested Priority Programs in Bicol that the World Bank Should Address

SUGGESTED PROGRAM(S)	JUSTIFICATION
a) Food Security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty: Bicol is one of the poorest regions in the Philippines.
b) Bicol River Basin Development Project (including rehabilitation of irrigation system).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal for this project has already been submitted. Governor Salceda strongly recommended for the approval of the project by the World Bank.
c) Waste Management.	
d) Support for Hydroelectric Projects in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High cost of electricity. Hydroelectric projects can mitigate possible power shortages in the future. They can also solve the problems of perennial flooding (especially in Camarines Sur) and complement reforestation programs to protect watershed areas.
e) Support for Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) to be implemented by municipal (not provincial) LGUs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants felt that the CCT program should be implemented by municipal LGUs because they can better target the truly-vulnerable individuals and households.

10. On the question concerning issues that the World Bank should avoid, the participants identified the following: (Please see *Annex 6* for details.)
- Political intervention, whether meddling in local politics or giving in to political pressure.
 - Project identification and prioritization.
 - Intervention with Filipino culture, values, religion, such as getting involved in family planning programs. (During the open forum, one participant pointed out that one group had said no to the reproductive health law, while another group had identified it as a solution to the problem. This seemed to imply that some of the participants favored WB support for family planning programs. The discussion that followed did not specifically resolve the issue of WB involvement; instead, the discussion focused on the importance of teaching responsible parenthood values rather than on contraceptives as a quick fix.)
11. The Open Forums held during the consultation also surfaced a number of important comments from the participants. The most significant comments are summarized below. Please see *Annexes 7 - 9* for details.

- How do you ensure that all 17 regions will be able to access programs equitably and that funds are not filtered at the national level? Maybe the WB can establish allocations so that other regions can access unused allocations.... For example, I feel that some watershed projects were chosen for funding because of the influence of some decision makers at the national level. This is the reason that I am suggesting a competitive environment in accessing support for projects.
- Is there a change in the packaging of proposals in the windows for assistance? Previously, it was up to the lead government agency to decide on the packaging. Our experience is that we have to wait because the implementing agency was taking a long time in the “packaging.” A lot of time was already wasted, yet the LGU cannot move.
- First, political intervention means influence by certain politicians. Second, should the WB involve itself in project prioritization? We are aware that all projects approved by WB are proposed by national government. Therefore, we assume that the projects are for the betterment of the nation. We invite the WB to look into projects and make sure that these are what the people really need.
- If we have a corrupt government, then the private sector must also be corrupt to a certain level because you can only deal with someone like you. The “corrupt” do not get punished, and it seems like people are ok with that. The problem is that people have stopped caring about others.... Everybody can actually be corrupt. We are corrupt sometimes, e.g., kids who do not give back the change to their parents when they are given money to buy something.
- The concept of CCT (conditional cash transfers) is good, but it is also a chance for patronage politics since the provincial head of DSWD who will be administering it is under the Office of the Governor. It may be better if the administration is left to municipal LGUs.... We suggest that this be done at the municipal level because the municipality is one step “closer” (the CBMS, community based monitoring system, can be used). Maybe WB could look at this more closely so that targeting of these households can be done better.
- Why not do a regional Panibagong Paraan?

List of Annexes

- 1 - List of Participants
- 2 - Program of Activities
- 3 - Participants' Responses to KC Question 1: Causes of Worsening Poverty and Recommended Solutions
- 4 - Participants' Responses to KC Question 2: Causes of the Inadequate Performance of Public Institutions and Recommended Solutions
- 5 - Participants' Listing of Development Challenges to be Included in new WB CAS
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- 8 - Participants' Comments during Open Forum 2 (Discussion of Knowledge Café / FGD Results)
- 9 - Participants' Comments during Open Forum 3 (Discussion of Emerging CAS Themes)

**Annex 1
List of Participants**

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**Annex 2
Program of Activities**

Time	Activity	Person(s) Responsible
<i>Morning</i>		
9:20	Singing of the National Anthem	
9:23	Prayer	
9:24	Welcome Remarks	Mr. Elmer Sto. Domingo
9:26	Opening Remarks	Mr. Bert Hofman, WBG
9:34	Introduction of Participants (by table)	
9:42	Introductory Remarks	Engr. Luis Banua, Division Chief, NEDA RO V
9:48	Presentation: Overview of The World Bank Group	Ms. Leonora Gonzales, WBG
10:00	Presentation: The Current CAS for the Philippines	Ms. Lada Strelkova, WBG
10:11	Open Forum	
11:00	Break	
11:12	Knowledge Café	Mr. Oman Jiao and Co-Facilitators
<i>Afternoon</i>		
12:35	Remarks	Gov. Joey Salceda, Bicol
	Response	Mr. Bert Hofman, WBG
12:50	Lunch	
	<i>Facilitators' Reports:</i>	
1:54	Question 1: Set 1	Ms. Amy Bolinas
2:05	Question 1: Set 2	Ms. Joy Bañares
2:09	Question 2: Set 1	Mr. Johann dela Rosa
2:16	Question 2: Set 2	Mr. Elmer Sto. Domingo
2:23	Question 3: Set 2	Mr. Louie Molina
2:30	Question 3: Set 1	Ms. Edna San Buenaventura
2:33	Open Forum	
3:14	Presentation: Stakeholder Feedback, Emerging CAS Themes	Ms. Leonora Gonzales, WBG
3:31	Open Forum	
4:35	Break	
4:44	Open Forum (continuation – last comments)	
4:52	Closing Remarks	Mr. Bert Hofman, WBG
4:57	End of Program	

Annex 3
Participants' Responses to KC Question 1:
Causes of Worsening Poverty and Recommended Solutions

Knowledge Café Set 1

FACILITATOR: MS. AMY BOLINAS, Executive Director – Simon of Cyrene Children's Rehabilitation and Development Foundation, Inc. (Daraga, Albay)

Table 4. Output Of Knowledge Café Set 1

CAUSES	SOLUTIONS
1. There is corruption at all levels of government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform of the justice system to make government officials accountable and impose corresponding punishment on corrupt officials. • Values re-orientation.
2. The vicious cycle of lack of education and unemployment perpetrates poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of job opportunities: development of countryside industries in Bicol to process agro-based products. • Provide scholarships for formal and vocational training. • Improve the educational system and facilities.
3. Population growth and limited resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Reproductive Health Law (Lagman Law).
4. Bicol is a natural disaster-prone area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate a Disaster Risk Management Plan.
5. Lack of sustainability of projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability should be included in project planning. • There should be proper monitoring of projects. • All components of the project – including organizing, people participation and sustainability – should be implemented thoroughly.
6. The inadequate performance of public institutions contributes to poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see solutions discussed in Group #2.
7. There is inequity of access to development assets. Poor people are not able to access public assets, such as: financial (capital), physical (infrastructure), social (not organized) and human knowledge (education).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More equitable access to development for the poor. • More consultations / information dissemination at the grassroots level.
8. Low agricultural output because of low agricultural inputs, and lack of capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make farmlands as collateral for bank loans with commercial banks.

and infrastructure (farm-to-market roads).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalize sustainable agriculture and urban farming for food security.
9. Negative attitudes and values of the people, specifically, (a) dependence on government, and (b) resistance to change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct education/information campaign, capability building, and organizing of the people.
10. Lack of cultural pride and identity as a people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural development and heritage preservation should be included in the CAS of the WB.
11. Insurgency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government and private sector should work collaborate on the parallel implementation of military operations and social-economic development.

Knowledge Café Set 2

FACILITATOR: JOY OROPESA-BAÑARES, Officer-in-Charge – Coalition for Bicol Development (Naga City)

Table 5. Output Of Knowledge Café Set 2

CAUSES	SOLUTIONS
1. Massive corruption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push for transparent governance.
2. Bicol is a disaster-prone area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalize disaster risk management. • Allocate more resources for Disaster Risk Management. • Let academe engage in Disaster Risk Management and include Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the school curriculum. • Adopt technologies for early maturing crops. • Provide support for post-harvest facilities.
3. Unemployment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more job opportunities. • Provide skills training.
4. Overpopulation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt natural family planning and responsible parenthood.
5. High interest rates of loans from rural banks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government should provide subsidies to farmers, coops, and micro enterprises.
6. Laziness of Bicolanos and their tendency to engage in many vices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct values formation (down to the barangay level).
7. Dole-out” mentality of Bicolanos.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide spiritual formation.
8. Lack of livelihood opportunities because of the lack of market opportunities and lack of investors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install “Bagsakan Centers,” a designated place where farmers/producers can bring their harvest/goods. • Provide storage facilities.

9. Environmental degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt sustainable agriculture.
10. Too much politics or ingrained patronage politics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strict adherence to COMELEC rules.
11. Limited financial resources for projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make an effort at mobilizing resources• Conduct trainings for NGOs/POs on fundraising and project development.
12. Insurgency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt the ID system.• Enhance the judicial system.
13. Lax implementation of laws.	
14. Unequal distribution of resources and opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct a Regional Summit to define the Bicol Development Agenda.

Annex 4
Participants’ Responses to KC Question 2:
Causes of the Inadequate Performance of Public Institutions and
Recommended Solutions

Knowledge Café Set 1

**FACILITATOR: MR. JOHANN DELA ROSA, Program Director – Naga City
 People’s Council (Naga City)**

Table 6. Output of Knowledge Café Set 1

CAUSES	SOLUTIONS
1. Prevalence of corruption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the current judicial system • Strengthen people’s participation and involvement in the identification and prosecution of corrupt officials. • Strengthen the auditing system.
2. Too much patronage politics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve and implement the currently-proposed electoral reforms. • Conduct values education and capacity building activities for elected officials and even candidates. • Government should develop a much stronger judicial system.
3. Government officials/workers lack competence to perform their functions and lack of understanding of the capacities, resources, and problems of citizens at the grassroots level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct values education and capacity building activities for government officials and workers. • Conduct development governance education for public officials and other stakeholders. • The basic requirement for candidates should be at least college graduate.
4. Because of the lack of grassroots consultation, government programs, projects and activities have wrong priorities. There is lack of support facilities to deliver services to communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure or strengthen people participation and involvement in identifying priority programs, projects and activities. • Strengthen and ensure regular grassroots consultation with regard to programs, projects and activities.
5. Government workers lack dedication and accountability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct regular value education for government workers. • Conduct performance audit of government workers by the public sector. • Institutionalize regular performance and accomplishment reporting to stakeholders.

<p>6. Government institutions do not have clear systems and procedures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen grassroots consultations to assess if the government procedures and systems are clear and client-friendly. • Conduct clear, regular and efficient information, education campaign for better understanding of government systems and procedures. • Document government services in terms of timeline standards and persons-in-charge at each process step to ensure accountability.
<p>7. Government lacks women leaders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact a special law to set a quota for gender equality in government elective positions.
<p>8. Citizens have difficulty in engaging with government because of the weak (i.e., undefined and unclear) flow of communication both upstream and downstream.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document government services, particularly in transmitting communications and information from National Government to LGUs and vice-versa.
<p>9. LGUs lack funds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More funding assistance windows should be made available.
<p>10. Because of its defective processes, the Procurement Law delays delivery of government services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Procurement Law should be reviewed and amended.

Knowledge Café Set 2

FACILITATOR: ELMER STO. DOMINGO, JR., Center for Community Development – Ateneo de Naga University (Naga City)

Table 7. Output of Knowledge Café Set 2

<p>CAUSES</p>	<p>SOLUTIONS</p>
<p>1. Wrong priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise political will in selecting and implementing priority solutions. • Government should engage the private sector and civil society in identifying priorities that truly address development needs of the community. • Conduct multi-sectoral consultations, which would include grassroots representatives, to determine priorities.
<p>2. Lack of research programs and lack of support in developing or implementing research-based projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage the strength of the academe (research) to determine appropriate development thrusts. • Translate research findings of the

	academe into action agenda for implementation.
3. Inconsistent national policies and centralized planning, which are not responsive to local conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review local government laws and other laws run counter to each other. • Document local concerns (e.g., problems, thoughts ideas) and bring these to the attention of national government agencies.
4. Ingrained patronage politics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen systems to have strict accountability.
5. Lack of capacity of local leaders to deliver basic services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute continuous capability building of local chief executives.
6. Lack of resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more financial support. • Maximize available resources by having a common focus/ direction. • Tap indigenous resources and establish social enterprises. • Implement a system to assess leadership performance and accountability.
7. Lack of information and education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an outreach program to deliver services to far-flung areas. • Institutionalize community information system.
8. Lack of partnerships and networking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open windows of opportunities for partnerships and understand responsibilities in partnerships.
9. Lack of support system for human resources development (especially for rank-and-file staff).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in capacity building and human resource development (e.g., on disaster management). • Seek national assistance for human resources development to augment limited funds of LGUs. • Establish and nurture a pool of trained, motivated and focused leaders even before they are elected into office.
10. No common vision of development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate a focused, common direction.
11. Lack of commitment, especially for economic development programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate a comprehensive program. • Identify personnel committed to implement such programs.

Annex 5
Participants' Listing of Priority Programs to be Included in new CAS

Knowledge Café Set 1

FACILITATOR: MS. EDNA SAN BUENAVENTURA, University Librarian – Ateneo de Naga University (Naga City)

Table 8: Output of Knowledge Café Set 1

SUGGESTED PROGRAM(S)	JUSTIFICATION
1. Food Security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty: Bicol is one of the poorest regions in the Philippines.
2. Waste Management.	
3. Separate Power Grid With Alternative Power (Renewable Energy).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High cost of electricity.
4. Disaster Preparedness, Risk Management, Post-Disaster Rehabilitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bicol is a natural calamity-prone area.
5. Decentralized Project Packaging Assistance (Direct World Bank Assistance To LGUs).	
6. Marketing Facilities for Farmers.	
7. Support For Institutional Strengthening For River Basins In Bicol.	
8. Coastal Resource Management.	
9. Income-Generating Infrastructure.	
10. Roads and Roll-On, Roll-Off (Ro-Ro) For Tourism.	
11. Organic Farming and Urban Organic Farming.	
12. Climate Change.	
13. Expand The “Panibagong Paraan.”	

Knowledge Café Set 2

FACILITATOR: MR. LOUIE MOLINA, Provincial Coordinator - Camarines Norte NGOs/POs for Sustainable Development (Camarines Norte)

Table 9: Output of Knowledge Café Set 2

SUGGESTED PROGRAM(S)	JUSTIFICATION
1. Bicol River Basin Development Project (including rehabilitation of irrigation system).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal for this project has already been submitted. Governor Salceda strongly recommended for the approval of the project by the World Bank.
2. Support for Conditional Cash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants felt that this should be

Transfers (CCT) to be implemented by municipal (not provincial) LGUs.	implemented by municipal LGUs because they can do better targeting the truly-vulnerable individuals and households.
3. Support for Hydroelectric Projects in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydroelectric projects can mitigate possible power shortages in the future. They can also solve the problems of perennial flooding (especially in Camarines Sur) and complement reforestation programs to protect watershed areas.
4. Support the Expansion of Crop Insurance in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will alleviate the widespread poverty in the region, especially among those dependent on rice, corn and coconut. Bicol is visited by more than a dozen typhoons annually.
5. Assist academic research institutions in the region in conducting Studies on Region-Specific Crops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional academic research institutions need assistance to conduct studies on local crops that the region should cultivate because these have already adapted well to local conditions.
6. Support Post-Harvest Facilities Projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are significant post-harvest losses in the region.
7. Support Program to Develop Upland Rice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upland rice production can complement production in the lowlands of the region. Moreover, upland farmers are some of the most marginalized farmers in the region.
8. Support Program for the Protection of Fish Sanctuaries and Marine Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The region has a long shoreline and extensive coastal areas. Fisherfolks constitute a significant portion of the regional population and are among the poorest.
9. Program on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather and climate patterns are changing. Typhoons are getting more destructive.
10. Program to continue and expand Reforestation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforestation is one important measure to mitigate the destructive effects of climate change.
11. Program to assist LGUs in the Implementation of the Solid Waste Management Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very few LGUs have actually implemented the Solid Waste Management Act since most need assistance on how this can be properly implemented.
12. Program to assist higher institutions of learning in conducting Disaster Management Studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The region is a disaster-prone area. However, LGUs, civil society and other sectors have difficulty in coping with disasters when these occur.
13. Program to Develop Renewable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recent power crisis has emphasized

Energy specifically, bio-fuels.	the need to develop clean and renewable energy.
14. Program to assist LGUs in their projects that target the Betterment of Women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women in the region are not being given the needed attention and assistance.
15. Program to assist LGUs in Improving their Revenue Generating Capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most LGUs in the region are too IRA-dependent; opportunities for raising revenues from other sources are not being tapped or maximized.
16. Program to Combat Corruption in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corruption is a major cause of poverty in the region.
17. Apart from the top LGU officials, include other LGU staff in World Bank capacity building activities.	

Annex 6
Participants' Listing of Development Challenges to be avoided in new CAS

Knowledge Café Set 1

FACILITATOR: MS. EDNA SAN BUENAVENTURA, University Librarian – Ateneo de Naga University (Naga City)

Table 10: Output Of Knowledge Café Set 1

1. Political intervention, i.e., meddling in local politics.
2. Intervention with Filipino culture, values, religion, such as getting involved in family planning programs. (During the open forum, one participant pointed out that one group had said no to the reproductive health law, while another group had identified it as a solution to the problem. This seemed to imply that some of the participants favored WB support for family planning programs. The discussion that followed did not specifically resolve the issue of WB involvement; instead, the discussion focused on the importance of teaching responsible parenthood values rather than on contraceptives as a quick fix.)

Knowledge Café Set 2

FACILITATOR: MR. LOUIE MOLINA, Provincial Coordinator - Camarines Norte NGOs/POs for Sustainable Development (Camarines Norte)

Table 11: Output of Knowledge Café Set 2

1. Involving itself in project identification and prioritization.
2. Giving in to political pressure.

Annex 7
Participants' Comments during Open Forum 1²
(Discussion of current CAS for the Philippines)

- 1. Benefits of LOGOFIND and Other WB-Supported Programs:**
 - A representative from a government agency noted that statistics showed 17,000 new jobs created, but she asked if the problem of unemployment was really solved.
 - A representative from a government agency in Sorsogon asked for clarification on the LOGOFIND report that 643,896 gained access to local infrastructure.
 - R. Mukami Kariuki, *WBG* – on LOGOFIND: she explained that the numbers presented represent all the different local governments that availed of funding through LOGOFIND -- a facility that is a combination of loans and grants; the idea is that eventually governments should graduate from dependency.
 - Bert Hofman, *WBG* - on employment statistics: said that WBG is not saying that its lending has directly led to the creation of new jobs, but rather it is more on the indirect effect of, for example, building infrastructures that opened opportunities to employment for more people

- 2. GOP Accountability for WB Loans:**
 - A CSO representative from Albay asked how the WBG ensures accountability of loans they issue to government and private sector.
 - Bert Hofman, *WBG* – response on accountability: he said WBG puts standards and safeguards in place, e.g., completion reports and evaluations, the results of which are put up on the web. He said there are organizations that the WBG does not work with because of concerns on the reputation of these groups.
 - A CSO representative from Camarines Norte asked what conditionalities the World Bank imposes on its loans to the government.
 - A CSO representative asked if loans to the Philippines been lessened because of the country's rank in terms of corruption?
 - Bert Hofman, *WBG* – on the high corruption ranking of the Philippines: he explained that the WBG has not lessened the loans, but it did put additional measures in place to make sure that money is used as intended. The additional measures are not just to safeguard WB money but to contribute to the betterment of the country's procedures, e.g. Procurement Law. This, he said is how the WBG tries to support better governance. He added that sometimes, some units do not agree to the additional measures, so the WBG does not lend to them.

² The names of participants who gave their inputs and insights during the Open Forum, except WBG representatives, are kept confidential because WBG did not have the permission to make their identities public.

3. Allocation of WB Support:

- A representative from a government agency in Naga City asked how the World Bank ensures that all 17 regions will be able to access programs equitably and that funds are not filtered at the national level? He suggested that maybe the WB can establish allocations so that other regions can access unused allocations.
- Leonora Gonzales, *WBG* – asked the government agency representative to explain further his comment that funds/resources are being filtered at the national level.
- The government agency representative from Naga City gave as an example some watershed projects which he feels were chosen for funding because of the influence of some decision makers at the national level. For this reason, he said he is suggesting a competitive environment in accessing support for projects.

4. Long Processing Times for LGU Funding:

- A local government official from Ligao City asked if there are changes in the packaging of proposals in the windows for assistance and if the WBG has a say in the packaging. Previously, she said, it was up to the lead government agency to decide on this.
- R. Mukami Kariuki, *WBG* – she said WBG lends to government, e.g. DOF in the case of LOGOFIND, and so DOF must put in place rules, including guidelines on packaging, in order for LGUs to access the funds.
- The local government official from Ligao City said they experienced waiting a long time because the implementing agency was also taking a long time in deciding on the “packaging.” She asked if the WB cannot have a say in this.
- Bert Hofman, *WBG* – he said he could see how difficult it is for LGUs to deal with some (government) units, but that a reformist from central government must be identified first and then find ways of doing things better.
- R. Mukami Kariuki, *WBG* – she told the local government official from Ligao City that there is a potential source of help under the PDF.

5. Planned National Sub-Facility for LGU:

- R. Mukami Kariuki, *WBG* – she said there is a national sub-facility that is currently being thought about but it is not yet operational.
- A representative from a government agency in *Naga* City asked (Mukami Kariuki) if there is an indicative timeline for the national sub-facility that is being thought about. He said his unit is already negotiating some financing arrangements with funding institutions but that the most generous term offered was 16 years. It would help them a lot, he said, if they could get something like a 25-year term.
- R. Mukami Kariuki, *WBG* – in response she said it will depend on what they are looking for in terms of loans and whether they would be willing to take the loan because the fund will be coming from the IFC and will be using market-based rates. She added they are waiting for clearance from government to allow this facility to be in place.

6. WB Support for NGOs:

- Bert Hofman, *WBG* – said that the WB does not lend to NGOs, but it gives small grants through the Panibagong Paraan program

Annex 8
Participants' Comments during Open Forum 2³
(Discussion of Knowledge Café/FGD Results)

1. Comments from Governor Joey Salceda and Response by Mr. Bert Hofman

1.1 Governor Joey Salceda, *Albay*:

- Agricultural modernization and education (keeping kids in school) are the most important components of development.
- Our strategy for Albay is climate- and disaster-proof development.
- We ask for support for the Bicol River Basin Project.

1.2 Bert Hofman, *WBG*:

- A long time ago, the WB spent \$1.2 million in preparing feasibility studies and other things necessary to prepare for the Bicol River Basin Project. And then the central government walked away from the project.
- The bigger-scale project that we propose is to NOT to make the Bicol River Basin (BRB) as the central project. Instead, establish a BRB Authority with a Board where all local governments are represented. In this way, we have a sustainable institutional structure. That is the proposal that we will send to the government through NEDA. We hope this will happen because the Philippines does not yet have a strong River Basin Management approach and we hope the Bicol River Basin could be a model.

2. On Political Intervention

- Bert Hofman, *WBG* – asked for clarification on the meaning of “political intervention” because the WB very often makes pronouncements on policies.
- A representative from the academe said “political intervention” does not mean objecting to WB policies; it means not being swayed by interventions from politicians.
- Another representative from the academe shared her thoughts, first, on political intervention and, second, on WB involvement in project prioritization. She said “political intervention” means influence by certain politicians. On project prioritization, she said everyone is aware that all projects approved by WB are proposed by the national government; therefore, the assumption is that the projects are for the betterment of the nation. She asked the WB to look into these projects and make sure that these are what the people really need.
- Bert Hofman, *WBG* – in discussing projects with government, he said the WBG actually shares knowledge. This is the reason why sometimes, the project agreed upon is not the original project that the government had in mind. However, it would be solving the same problem that the original project would have addressed. For example, if the problem was disaster management,

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WBG could propose mangrove forest project rather than building dikes because, based on WBG experience in other countries, it has been proven that mangrove forests would work better than dikes.

- Leonora Gonzales, *WBG* - on project identification, she asked if WBG is trying to establish the needs of a particular area, is that not getting involved?
- Another representative from the academe said her notion of the WB is an institution that tells government what it should do. She asked if this notion is correct. She also noted that there are many politicians who are attending the Consultation; perhaps, she said, they could ventilate their thoughts on poverty and corruption, and probably clarify the issues being said about them and share examples of good governance that she could share with her students. (None of the politicians responded.)
- Bert Hofman, *WBG* – he explained that the WBG sees governments as clients and supports them in their development goals. He said he thinks WBG sometimes try to nudge (as opposed to “force” or telling them what to do) governments towards some ideas which WBG thinks are good for development. There are very few countries, he said, that rely heavily on WB financing.

3. On Addressing the Population Issue:

- Leonora Gonzales, *WBG* – she sought clarification on the recommendation related to population issue: she asked if it is to support family planning.
- A CSO representative from Naga City said what she meant by family planning is natural family planning, as advised by the Church. Her stand, she said, is responsible parenthood.
- One participant commented that the problem is that participants per se cannot agree on how to solve the problem, noting that the two sets that tackled the question on poverty had conflicting results: one group said no to the reproductive health law, while another group identified it as a solution to the problem.
- A CSO representative from Naga City shared her thoughts on population control saying that what is more important is teaching responsible parenthood values rather than focusing on contraceptives as a quick fix.

4. Corruption and the Causes of Poverty

- A CSO representative from Camarines Sur said corruption is number one in both sets of Group 1. He asked, however, if corruption is really the problem of the region. In his opinion, he said, corruption is not the direct cause of poverty in the region; rather, calamity is number one because every year, it destroys everything.
- A representative from the academe said poverty comes from inequity of access to development assets that the poor finds very hard to access. Corruption and calamity are only aggravating factors.
- A CSO representative from Naga City said she remembers a Japanese author who said “the cause of corruption is poverty.” For example, she said, the evacuation centers have remained as evacuation centers many months after the

disaster. Someone must be keeping the evacuees there for some self-serving purposes; otherwise, the people should have already moved on.

- A representative from a government agency said their (Knowledge Café) group identified corruption as main reason for poverty based on the group's perception in the course of discussing the question.
- A government representative suggested that the word "corruption" be replaced with another term, maybe "mismanagement of resources"?
- A representative from the academe commented that if we have a corrupt government, then the private sector must also be corrupt to a certain level because you can only deal with someone like you. The "corrupt" do not get punished, and it seems like people are ok with that. The problem is that people have stopped caring about others.
- A CSO representative from Camarines Sur said, when you say corruption, we think only of government. But everybody can actually be corrupt. We are corrupt sometimes, he said, e.g., kids who do not give back the change to their parents when they are given money to buy something.

5. Sharing of Proceedings

- A CSO representative from Camarines Sur asked what happens after the CAS consultation.
- Leonora Gonzales, *WBG* – explained that the proceedings of the Consultation will be shared with the participants. The summary of the results of all the consultations will also be shared.

Annex 9

Participants' Comments during Open Forum 3⁴ **(Discussion of Emerging CAS Themes)**

1. Food Security:

- A representative from the academe said food security is one of the problems today and asked what the WB is doing about this. He asked if this is part of the “shift in strategy” that the WB is talking about.
- Bert Hofman, *WBG* – explained that the WBG have been quite heavily engaged in helping shape the government’s policy on food security. In the end, it is about individual food security and the WBG response has been conditional cash transfers, however, he said the government strategy seems to be not as good as it was hoped to be and WBG is looking at more effective ways to do this. WBG is also looking at developing agriculture and hopes that they would be able to agree on benchmarks for agriculture and work with the DA.

2. World Bank Assistance to Grassroots Workers:

- A CSO representative from Naga City said top-to-bottom filtering of policies makes grassroots complacent. How do you help people who work at the grassroots? One way is the provision of health insurance for health workers.
- Bert Hofman, *WBG*– on community/grassroots health workers: he admitted that this is something that he cannot comment on at the moment but he is open to proposed solutions.
- The CSO representative from Naga City also commented on pilot programs (e.g. giving subsidies to the poor to access health resources): she urged the World Bank to go for full implementation saying that the problem with pilot programs is that they never get fully implemented.

3. Conditional Cash Transfers and Other Subsidies to the Poor:

- Dave Llorito, *WBG* – shared that an investigation of conditional cash transfers has revealed that many assisted families used the money on “real investments”: food, health, education of their children.
- A CSO representative from Camarines Sur asked who implements the CCT project, who identifies the projects, recipient barangays, and beneficiaries. He also asked if this is a continuing program.
- A CSO representative from Camarines Norte also asked how the World Bank determines the beneficiaries (of the CCT). He said the suggestion is that this be done at the municipal level because the municipality is one step “closer” (the CBMS, community based monitoring system, can be used). Maybe WB could look at this more closely so that targeting of these households can be done better.

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- A CSO representative from Naga City expressed concerns about the continuity of the program: he asked if KALAHI-CIDSS and CCT continue beyond 2010.
- Bert Hofman, *WBG* – CCT, he said, has been successfully done in other countries, e.g. Latin America, South Africa, and Bangladesh. This is being piloted right now in a small number of households, but this a huge undertaking – an establishment of a modern social protection system that should be sustained for the next 25 years. Full implementation system is still being worked out with the DSWD. Target beneficiaries would come from the poorest barangays from within the poorest municipalities. The program should be institutionalized so that it continues through the term of the next administration who will be elected into office.
- The CSO representative from Camarines Sur noted that the concept (of CCT) is good, but it is also a chance for patronage politics since the provincial head of DSWD who will be administering it is under the Office of the Governor. It may be better if the administration is left to LGUs.
- Bert Hofman, *WBG* – said that while they understand the advantages of LGU administration, the national system of targeting the poor will be very useful. What is needed is to build safeguards into the mechanism to protect it and make sure that the target beneficiaries get the support intended for them.
- Dave Llorito, *WBG* – said that based on the experience in Esperanza, the LGU may actually like to leave the targeting to DSWD so that, if grievances or problems arise, the LGU could always tell people to go to DSWD for solutions. To complement the process, the LGU could hire people to help in the validation of the targeted beneficiaries.
- The CSO representative from Camarines Sur asked if it is possible for CSOs to be involved in this (CCT) project.
- A CSO representative from Naga City suggested further that perhaps the academe could also be tapped to help in gathering information.
- Bert Hofman, *WBG* – said that in a way, the academe is already engaged. Tapping CSOs/NGOs and how they can be engaged is still being considered.
- Another CSO representative from Naga City asked if CSOs who will get involved need to shell out their own financial and human resources?
- The CSO representative from Camarines Sur said if CSOs will be engaged, surely some (operating) funds will be available with the project.

4. Ideas about the Panibagong Paraan

- A CSO representative from Naga City said it was a good experience being part of Panibagong Paraan saying they got feedback from a lot of people and had good exposure. However, she commented that some judges do not understand the kinds of projects they were judging. She asked the World Bank to choose judges who are at least familiar with the projects for better evaluation and assessment (and better chances at winning).
- Leonora Gonzales, *WBG* – asked what participants meant by “expansion of the Panibagong Paraan”?

- Another CSO representative from Naga City said that participating institutions are also investing financial and human resources in the market place. Shortening the period of time of the market place will translate to savings on resources.
- Another CSO representative from Naga City asked why not do a regional Panibagong Paraan?
- A representative from the academe said their project was aligned with the Panibagong Paraan theme (local governance), but felt that most of the funding partners were not aligned with this theme. He said that there is no way that their project on local governance could win if the funders do not consider it a priority area to support.
- Another CSO representative said their Panibagong Paraan entry was on disaster management and so she was happy to hear that WB would like to support a project to this effect.

5. Compulsory Governance Course for Candidates

- A CSO representative suggested a “crazy idea” of making (politicians) candidates undergo a course on governance and, if they do not take this course, they cannot run for public office.