

Philippines
NGO-JICA Japan Desk
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1. Featured Project ~Support to Disabled War Victims in ARMM and Surrounding Areas~

The Community Empowerment Program (CEP) featured this month is the “*Support to Disabled War Victims in ARMM and Surrounding Areas*” which started last November 2004 and will finish on March 2006.



Handicap International's Rehabilitation Center
in Cotabato City

Different factors influence the risk for a person to get impaired such as accident, genetic and birth malformations among others. In the case of Central Mindanao, the risk has been increased due to the raging conflicts and humanitarian crisis. The conflict has resulted to numerous casualties and impairments among the army, rebel group and the civilian population caught in the cross fires. On top of it, there is an absence of service providers in the area capable of giving appropriate services for war victims and disabled persons.

The specific problems to be addressed by the project are the 1) unavailability of rehabilitation services that would allow disabled persons to live a decent life as active members of society and 2) lack of recognition of physically impaired civilian war victims which result to exclusion from welfare planning and just compensations. The Project aims to be able to reintegrate the war victims and persons with disabilities to their communities so that they will be able to participate once again in the activities of the society.

About 100 Community Volunteers, 50 Humanitarian and Development Actors and 60 Barangay Health Workers will directly benefit from the Project. The project covers the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and

Lanao del Sur.

The Project will 1) Conduct In-house and Hands-on training for the Community Volunteers and Barangay Health Workers for them to be able to identify various types of disabilities and provide community-based services, 2) Conduct training to Humanitarian and Development Actors such as local and national authorities, other cooperation agencies



Community Volunteer's Training

and NGOs for them to recognize the potential of war victims and persons with disabilities (PWDs) and adapt their services or programs to the specific needs of PWDs to be able to reintegrate them in the community, and 3) Introduce a Referral Model for the War Victims and PWDs in order to refer them to appropriate agencies and be given rehabilitation services.

The Handicap International (HI), a non-government International Solidarity organization which has its headquarters in Lyon, France, is the partner of JICA for this



Barangay Health Worker providing rehabilitation services

Project. HI was established in 1982 and has created sections in Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Germany, United Kingdom and Canada. HI is also actively extending assistance in Laos and Vietnam.

HI has been present in the Philippines since 1988. Their activities focus primarily on the 1) health and proximity support to disabled and vulnerable persons and 2) emergency and disaster preparedness. HI has one office in Manila and a Rehabilitation Center in Cotabato City.

2. NGO Desk Activity ~ Project Site Visit ~

NGO Desk visited last November 2005 the project on “Agricultural Technical Assistance Project” in Calauan, Laguna under the Technical Cooperation for Grassroots Projects. It is being implemented by a Japanese NGO called Philippine Japan Friendship Association, Inc. (PJF) in cooperation with the Municipality of Calauan, Laguna. The Project started last August 2004 and ended last January 2006.

The Project aims 1) to establish a method of producing organic fertilizer which is suitable to the climate and soil condition of Calauan, 2) transfer the knowledge/technology of producing organic fertilizer to agricultural technicians and

farmers of Calauan, 3) to make the residents of Calauan Municipality understand the importance of organic farming.

In the course of project implementation, PJF and Calauan Municipality were able to produce 38.2 metric tons of organic fertilizer in 2 batches which were distributed and used by 73 farmer cooperators. The average production period of organic fertilizer is 2 months. Based on the harvest reports from both wet and dry seasons, majority of the farmers reported an increase in their yield after using organic fertilizer. The reported increase in yield is still very minimal since the appropriate amount of organic fertilizer was not applied due to the limited volume of produced organic fertilizer.

According to Calauan Municipality and PJF, the knowledge/technology in organic fertilizer production was successfully transferred thus their next aim is to be able to produce it in bulk and at lower cost so that more farmers will benefit from the project.



Mixing of raw materials during production of organic fertilizer

3. NGO Desk Event ~ NGO-JICA Partnership Training ~

The theme of the 8th NGO-JICA Partnership Training which was held from November 22-28, 2005 is “Understanding the Concept of Human Security in the Field: JICA and NGO’s Perspective”. The participants of the training are composed of 8 representatives from JICA and 7 representatives from Japanese NGOs. The training includes a study tour in JICA’s selected project as well as projects of selected NGOs in the Philippines.



Participants of JICA-NGO Partnership Training

JICA’s project with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority Women's Center (TESDA Women’s Center) called Gender Responsive Employability (Wage and Self) and Training (Project GREAT) was visited by the participants. TESDA Women Center is a vocational school catering to high school graduates and offers courses such as food processing, dress making, hotel management and jewelry making. Courses which are often associated as man’s turf such as car maintenance, welding and electromechanical stuff are also offered to women for their empowerment. The participants went around the workshop area of each course and

interviewed the trainees. Afterwards, the former trainees were interviewed regarding the usefulness of the training, their present occupation and future plans. Most of the trainees are interested to do any kind of work abroad that is why the training participants felt that courses that would be useful for Overseas Filipino Workers should be emphasized. There is also a need to introduce entrepreneurship courses as well as strengthened the network of TESDA in marketing for strategic cooperation.



Women trainees of welding course

As for NGO side, the different People's Organizations (POs) composed of fishermen, women, and youth which are being supported by Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) in Bataan were interviewed by the participants. In order to understand the living condition of the residents in Barangay Kapunitan, the participants stayed in their houses and joined their fishing activity. It was pointed out that these communities need to organize themselves so that the cooperation among POs and between POs and LGUs will continue even after the assistance of PRRM. Despite the hectic schedule, the participants exerted effort to interview the residents in order to have a deeper understanding of the situation in Bataan.



Visit to Community Care Center of ICAN in Payatas

ICAN and SALT, the Japanese NGOs working in the garbage dump site in Payatas, Quezon City were also visited in order to help understand another aspect of Philippine society. The participants went around the communities near the dump site and were able to have a glimpse of how people live there. They were surprised to find out that that even if the houses are amidst the mountain of garbage; many people have television sets or radio as form of entertainment. They were more surprised when one child asked them to be a sponsor so that her sister can go to school.

In this training, several workshops focusing on the group work and interviews carried out by the participants were conducted. There were lots of information and impression sharing which resulted to deeper understanding of the situation in some areas in the Philippines. The participants worked really hard to have a meaningful and successful training.

4. Directory

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~ Editor's Note ~

NGO Desk would like to thank Ms. Kiwa Kowaki and Ms. Eri Aoki, JICA interns assigned to Grassroots Cooperation Section and Administration Section respectively, for their contributions in this newsletter. Ms. Kowaki is taking up Masters in International Relations in Ritsumeikan University and Ms. Aoki is taking up Southeast Asian Studies in Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. (M.B.)



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