
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (PEP) – PHILIPPINES PROJECT

Project No.	: A-32497
Project Cost	: US\$12 million (CIDA's contribution: Cdn\$5 million)
Duration	: 4 years to June 2009
Location	: Nationwide (with a focus on Mindanao)
Implementing Agency	: International Finance Corporation

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

IFC's PEP-Philippines project, with support from AusAID and CIDA, supports the growth of SMEs in the Philippines, particularly in Mindanao. The project builds on IFC's experience worldwide in running similar technical assistance projects in other countries, particularly Indonesia. The project focuses on improving access to finance for SMEs and in rural areas, strengthening value chains in particular sectors such as seaweed, improving the business enabling environment, and ensuring its support promotes gender equality and environmental sustainability. The project has offices both in Manila and Davao.

PROJECT GOAL:

To reduce poverty and improve livelihoods by improving the economic value-added of SMEs, particularly in Mindanao and other economically lagging regions of the country.

PROJECT PURPOSES:

The project will provide support in line with the IFC's five global business lines for its technical assistance projects: Business Enabling Environment; Access to Finance; Value Addition to Firms; Sustainability; and Infrastructure.

Initially, the project will focus on three areas:

- 1) Governance reform at the local level to simplify business registration and improve investment promotion;
 - 2) Strengthening access to finance for small and medium enterprises;
 - 3) Strengthening the agribusiness value chains in Mindanao. Other projects are at the concept stage.
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CONTACTS:

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Mr. Euan Marshall

Head of Advisory Services - Philippines

11/F, Tower One, Ayala Triangle

Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Philippines

Tel. No. : (02) 848-7333

Fax No. : (02) 848-7339

Email : Emarshall1@ifc.org

Website : www.ifc.org

Canadian Embassy

Ms. Narcisa M. Rivera

Senior Program Officer

Canadian Embassy

Level 7, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza

6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines

Tel. No.: (02) 857-9122

Fax No.: (02) 843-1083 / 857-9175

Email : Narcisa.Rivera@international.gc.ca

Canadian International Development Agency

Mr. Jon Silva

Development Officer

Indonesia, Philippines, and Southeast Asia

Regional Division

Asia Branch

200 Promenade du Portage

Gatineau, Quebec, Canada K1A 0G4

Tel. No. : (819) 997-4763

Fax No. : (819) 997-0968

Email : Jon.Silva@acdi-cida.gc.ca
