
JUSTICE REFORM INITIATIVES SUPPORT (JURIS) PROJECT

Project No.	:	4128/031102
Project Cost	:	Cdn\$ 6.4M
Duration	:	5 years (2003-2008)
Canadian Executing Agency	:	National Judicial Institute (NJI)
Location	:	Nationwide
Implementing Agencies	:	Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA) Alternative Law Groups, Inc. (ALG Inc.) Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) Supreme Court of the Philippines- Program Management Office (PMO)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The JURIS Project seeks to support the implementation of the Supreme Court's **Action Program for Judicial Reform (APJR 2001-2006) and its Supplement**. The project will support access to justice by the poor, the fifth of the six components of the APJR, with the view of contributing to solving the very critical problem of case congestion and delay.

The project has three major components, namely:

- 1. Mediation/ADR Strengthening:** This component will introduce and test Court-Annexed Mediation (CAM) and Judicial Dispute Resolution (JDR) as a means of decongesting court dockets while still providing a fair resolution to cases. The project will pilot Model Courts that will adopt and institutionalize the use of CAM and JDR that encourage further support to and acceptance of mediation/alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods among stakeholders, the users of the courts. Two Model Courts are piloted in the first year in San Fernando City in Pampanga province
- 2. Judicial Education:** This component will strengthen the capacity of PHILJA, the legal and judicial education arm of the Supreme Court, to plan, design and deliver educational programs for judges and court personnel relating primarily to court-based and court-annexed mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms and access to justice.
- 3. Reform Advocacy:** This component involves networking and collaboration between the judiciary and civil society as well as with the executive and legislative

and in Bacolod City in Negros Occidental Province. New additional sites (San Fernando City, La Union, Baguio City and Benguet, Cagayan de Oro City, and Misamis Oriental) have been selected and are receiving support. This component aims to ease the backlog of cases, establish court diversions systems, promote access to justice and provide a competent, efficient and credible adjudication and resolution of disputes. PHILJA will also work on strengthening family courts and the family mediation program through this component.

departments in cooperative advocacy efforts on issues affecting the poor and marginalized. The component aims to strengthen the capacity of the ALGs to engage government and other institutions to improve the quality of judicial services and access to justice. The reform advocacy component also aims to strengthen the ALGs' capacity to empower the poor and marginalized to make use of judicial services and other advocacy venues.

The project has an added element, a Research and Technical Studies Fund, that will support research and other technical studies supportive of ADR/Mediation, Judicial Education, and Reform Advocacy.

PROJECT GOAL:

To contribute to the Philippine judiciary's efforts to improve the quality of judicial services and access to justice, particularly by the poor and marginalized groups, by supporting elements of the Supreme Court's Action Program for Judicial Reform (APJR 2001-2006) and its Supplement.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

To support the Supreme Court's Action Program for Judicial Reform (APJR 2001-2006) related to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and access to justice by the poor and marginalized.
