Mobilizing the Diaspora for Development
Lessons from 25 years of engagement

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Mobilizing the Diaspora for Development

Lessons from 25 years of engagement

Expectations:

1. Demonstrate diaspora’s role in multi-stakeholder partnership for migration & development;

2. Deepen understanding of the process of diaspora social capital building
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Outline:
1. Status of current multi-stakeholdership initiatives;
2. Significant Lessons for the diasporas
3. Social Capital building: Damayan’s experience
4. Some recommendations for policy makers
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Lessons from 25 years of engagement

Damayan (1986) - a community building association of residents (marriage migration) & expats focuses on philanthropy & social enterprise;

Habagat (1992) - a foundation to realize migrants’ role in development by empowering diaspora self-organizations, focuses on new initiatives (faith-based groups, e-learning, financial empowerment) and marginal sectors (seafarers, domestic workers, seniors);

Bisdak Network (1992) - a regional network working for socialization rights & cultural identity, focuses on hometown association building
Uno por Uno Initiative with LGU

20 Overseas Filipino from Philippines, Middle East, US & 7 EU countries form OF caucus for development

Due to this success, Governor joins Amsterdam Conference and enters into peso for peso agreement with Damayan, Habagat, Bisdak & OF caucus

10 to 15 governors willing to enter agreements in GFMD Manila on October 2008, an agreement similar to Zacatecas 3 x 1 model
Bisdak launches Queen of Development in February to stimulate hometown associations;

7 candidates join in with winners joining signing with governors; 7 other governors provided by Philippine NGOs

Habagat provides financial literacy for residents & hometown supporters;

Bisdak, Habagat, Damayan helps establish Diaspora Forum for Development, a platform of 32 organizations from Africa, Latin-America & Asia. Anchors social media for GFMD participation
Significance of this 9 month breakthrough:

1. Diaspora organizations are able to act as initiator of multi-stakeholder partnerships with government, development NGOs, faith institutions and business;

2. The social capital of diaspora needs to be leveraged, especially at the local levels in rural areas where its projects are most felt, where diaspora families are located;

3. Diaspora social capital could build conditions favorable to combat corruption and good governance by seeking co-development in partnerships. It also shows its potential for peacebuilding and in addressing gender and economic inequalities
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A CLOSER LOOK AT SOCIAL CAPITAL BUILDING

Individual migration diffuses flow and slows down social capital...

Gender obstacles slows down community building...

Right to socialization,
De-skilling (non-recognition of diplomas) are issues
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Transnational Mission:
Respond collectively to Filipino needs in the Netherlands and Philippines
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1999 Livelihood Aetas in Zambales
1999 Migrant daycare, Manila
1993 Fishers Livelihood, Negros
2001 School library in Bohol
2005 Hospital in Magsaysay
2006 Cabubuhan School Fence
2006 women’s market & enterprise
1991 20 Manobo scholars, Agusan
1997 Livelihood, Drivers wives CdO
2007 Indigenous people schooling
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How our engagements developed?

1. Micro initiatives lead to integrated approaches
2. Educational initiatives encounter issues of sustainability
3. Special attention to women & other marginal sectors (indigenous communities);
4. Growing concerns on impact and transformation value
5. From Philanthropy to Social Enterprise
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Breakthrough in social mobilization

2006 – 2008
3 Changes in diaspora situation

2002 Cultural workshop for 700 children in 26 Schools result in 5 year partnership with St. Michael Elementary school (2-5 X increase in funds)

2003 Second Generation promotion of Philippine Children’s rights address role of the second generation in community (40%);

2005 Increasing recognition of role of Diaspora in development Remittance, Social Costs, and Diaspora investments
Partnerships in Education

Damayan partners with Dutch primary school St. Michael and a global hometown association to raise 24,000 euros for school buildings and scholarships.

Dutch development funders double the amount ...
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Partnership in Education

Damayan provide 270 scholars to post-conflict communities, 10x more than 2001 Local village government in Muslim-Christian community matches number of scholars as counterpart...

Computers donated recently...
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Maria Goes to Town
A Case for Social Enterprise Mobilization

US$ 15000 prize money from contest

Tripled to US$ 45000 through Dutch match funds

Counterparting by Diaspora, municipal government and local organizations doubled project amount to USD 90,000
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Maria Goes to Town
A Case for Social Enterprise Mobilization

A women’s federation
200 women from 3 village chapters formed;
Income has risen from production & retail by 30 to 60 dollars or USD 60,000 for first year;
Women run the market and first woman village head is elected as head of municipal barangay association,
Gender orientation adopted by municipality
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Maria Goes to Town
A Case for Social Enterprise Mobilization

The economic environment is now ready for diaspora investment with 44 women micro-entrepreneurs.

85 jobs for 425 families

5 diaspora investors from hometown have invested

Local MFIs are helping but with low capital flows…

Repayment of credit has increased to 85 %
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A Case for Social Enterprise Mobilization

Empowering local counterparts;

Partnering with local government multiplies diaspora social capital

Counterparting is essential for stakeholdership
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Insights developed

MIRRORING STRATEGY

(Diaspora as the other half of Global Filipino Nation)

1. **Diaspora Social Gains are significant** (i.e., Values learned & Networks developed, and capital earned while in diaspora);

2. Our **social capital could be mobilized** for changes (Leveraging);

3. **Social Enterprise** involves using both Philanthropy and Investment components

4. Could diaspora engagement be the **missing link** in the Migration-Development nexus.... ???
We thank you for this Opportunity to share our lessons in mobilizing the diaspora for social development…

SALAMAT PO ... Merci beaucoup !!!

Habagat: [http://www.habagat.nl](http://www.habagat.nl)
Damayan: [http://www.damayan.nl](http://www.damayan.nl)
Bisdak-NL: [http://bisdak.pinoye-gain.info](http://bisdak.pinoye-gain.info)
OF Caucus: [http://ofw4development.pinoye-gain.info](http://ofw4development.pinoye-gain.info)
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