



AUSTRALIA AND THE PHILIPPINES
PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT

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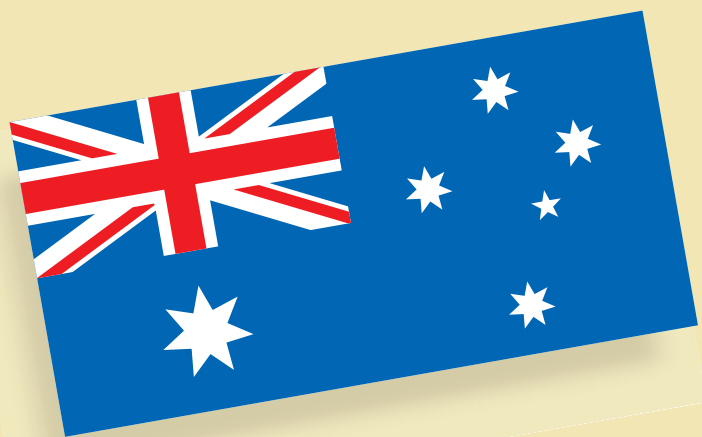
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THE AUSTRALIAN AID PROGRAM IN THE PHILIPPINES

MAJOR AUSTRALIAN AID PROJECTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

NATIONWIDE

- APEC Support Program
- Australian NGO Cooperation Program
- International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)
- Australian-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Program
- Australian Development Scholarships
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)
- Short Term Training Project
- Technical Advisory Services Facility
- DENR Human Resource Development

CORDILLERA AUTONOMOUS REGION (CAR)

- Integrated Community Health Services
- Mindanao Maternal and Child Health
- Women's Health Training Project
- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Street Children Nutrition and Education
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)
- Baguio Water Supply Upgrading and Rehabilitation
- Aeromagnetic Survey

REGION III

- Aeromagnetic Survey
- Child Labour
- Street Children Nutrition & Education
- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)

- Municipal Solar Infrastructure
- SMART Traffic Lights
- Search and Rescue Vessels
- Urban Health & Nutrition
- Control of Foot & Mouth Disease
- Street Children Nutrition & Education
- Model Community Health/STD Facilities
- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Community Health Assistance Program (PACAP)

REGION IV

- Integrated Community Health Services
- Women's Health Training
- Philippines Regional Municipal Development
- Agricultural Technology Education
- Urban Health and Nutrition
- Aeromagnetic Survey
- Child Labour
- Child Growth
- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)
- Special Community Assistance for SZOPAD (PASCATS)
- UN/MNLF Emergency Program

REGION VI

- Integrated Community Health Services
- Women's Health Training
- Municipal Solar Infrastructure
- Philippines Regional Municipal Development
- Child Growth
- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Street Children Nutrition and Health Education
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)

REGION IX

- Project in Basic Education
- Mindanao Maternal and Child Health
- Women's Health Training
- Municipal Solar Infrastructure
- Aeromagnetic Survey
- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Mindanao Private Sector Development Study
- Improving the Environment for Foreign Investment in Mindanao
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)
- UN/MNLF Emergency Program
- Special Community Assistance for SZOPAD (PASCATS)

REGION X

- Project in Basic Education
- Agricultural Technology Education
- Mindanao Maternal and Child Health
- Philippines Regional Municipal Development
- Urban Health and Nutrition
- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Cagayan de Oro-Iligan Corridor Special Development Project
- Northern Mindanao Preparatory Program
- Improving the Environment for Foreign Investment in Mindanao
- Mindanao Private Sector Development Study
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)

AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM)

- Women's Health Training
- Municipal Solar Infrastructure
- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Mindanao Private Sector Development Study
- Improving the Environment for Foreign Investment in Mindanao
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)
- Special Community Assistance for SZOPAD (PASCATS)
- UN/MNLF Emergency Program

REGION XII

- Philippines Regional Municipal Development
- Mindanao Maternal and Child Health
- Child Growth
- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Improving the Environment for Foreign Investment in Mindanao
- UN/MNLF Emergency Program
- Agricultural Technology Education
- Women's Health Training
- Cagayan de Oro-Iligan Corridor Special Development Project
- Mindanao Private Sector Development Study
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)
- Special Community Assistance for SZOPAD (PASCATS)

REGION I

- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Coastal Zone Environment and Resource Management
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)

REGION II

- Project in Basic Education
- Women's Health Training
- Agricultural Technology Education
- Child Growth
- Aeromagnetic Survey
- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)

REGION V

- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Women's Health Training
- Control of Foot & Mouth Disease
- Child Growth
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)

REGION VIII

- Mindanao Maternal & Child Health
- Women's Health Training
- Municipal Solar Infrastructure
- Child Growth
- Aeromagnetic Survey
- Child Labour
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)

REGION VII

- Project and Basic Education
- Women's Health Training
- Philippines Regional Municipal Development
- Urban Health and Nutrition
- Street Children Nutrition and Health Education
- Search and Rescue Vessels
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)

REGION XIII

- Project and Basic Education
- Mindanao Maternal and Child Health
- Women's Health Training
- Municipal Solar Infrastructure
- Integrated Community Health Services
- Malaria Prevention & Control
- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Mindanao Private Sector Development Study
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)

REGION XI

- Integrated Community Health Services
- Mindanao Maternal and Child Health
- Agricultural Technology Education
- Philippines Regional Municipal Development Project
- Child Labour
- Street Children Nutrition & Education
- Davao del Sur Area Resource Management
- Tribal Women's Health & Development
- Family Planning & Reproductive Health Education
- Mindanao Private Sector Development Study
- Improving the Environment for Foreign Investment in Mindanao
- Community Assistance Program (PACAP)
- Special Community Assistance for SZOPAD (PASCATS)
- UN/MNLF Emergency Program



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*Alexander Downer
Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs*

MINISTERIAL INTRODUCTION

The Australia-Philippines relationship is both long-standing and strong.

As vigorous democratic countries, we have much in common. We live in the same part of the world and we have a common outlook on key regional, economic and security issues.

Cooperation between our two countries is close - and no more so than in the area of development.

Australia is the second largest donor of country-to-country aid to the Philippines and has been working with Filipinos on aid and development since the 1950s.

Such cooperation has grown particularly strong in recent years. In 1998-99, Australia will spend an estimated \$A61 million (P1.5 billion) on the development partnership. This makes the Philippines the fourth largest recipient of Australian aid.

The aid program is developed in consultations between the two countries and is aimed at reducing poverty among Filipinos.

I am certain that the goodwill engendered through the continuing development partnership will remain an important part of our relationship.



*microenterprise development - an effective form
of development in the Philippines*



HISTORY

The Australia-Philippines relationship dates back to the period immediately after World War II when the Australian Government established a Consulate General and later an Embassy in the capital, Manila. In the years since then, it has developed strongly to include cooperation on diplomatic, defence and economic and trade issues as well as on development.

Australia has provided development assistance to the Philippines since the 1950s, originally as part of the Colombo Plan - an initiative launched by Commonwealth countries, including Australia, to help strengthen the economies of South and South East Asia.

Country-to-country aid grew significantly in the 1970s as successive Australian Governments attached greater importance to relations with ASEAN countries, including the Philippines, and by 1979-80 had reached more than \$A9 million (P225 million). By 1984-85, the Philippines was the fifth largest recipient of Australian bilateral aid.

In the past decade, Australian aid to the Philippines has almost doubled, reflecting the high priority both countries place on the development partnership. The increase reflects also Australian support for the restoration of democracy in the post-Marcos years and efforts by the Philippine Government toward economic reform and poverty reduction. Total Australian aid in the past ten years amounts to around A\$530 million (P13 billion).

Economic recovery in the Philippines has also provided a basis for stronger trade and investment links, and Australia continues to value the constructive role played by the Philippines in regional organisations such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).





*Helping developing countries reduce poverty
and achieve sustainable development*

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S OVERSEAS AID PROGRAM

Australia's overseas aid program is designed to help developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, and has a strong emphasis on the Asia Pacific, including the Philippines.

The program aims to assist poor people in developing countries, but also benefits Australia by fostering long-term economic growth and regional stability.

Australian government aid funds are spent on a range of development projects from small-scale developments in local communities to large-scale projects in cooperation with national governments and international organisations such as the United Nations. Australia also provides assistance in times of emergency such as droughts, floods or other disasters.

The Australian aid program places a particular emphasis on health; education; agriculture and rural development; infrastructure such as water supply and sanitation, energy supplies, transport, and communications; and the promotion of good governance. It also pays close attention to the environment and addressing the needs of both women and men.

In 1998-99, the Australian Government will spend an estimated A\$1.4 billion (P35 billion) on aid through its overseas aid agency, AusAID (Australian Agency for International Development).



Filipinos face great challenges in keeping their country on the path to sustainable and equitable growth.



AUSTRALIA-PHILIPPINES DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: AN OVERVIEW

The Australian Government's aid program to the Philippines recognises that Filipinos face great challenges in keeping their country on the path to sustainable and equitable growth.

Although the Philippines has in recent years made good economic progress, more than a third of households, the majority of them in rural areas, still live on incomes below the poverty line.

In close cooperation with Filipinos, the Australian Government is contributing to projects in areas such as health, education, rural development and infrastructure.

There will also be, over the next few years, a focus on aid projects which promote good governance, and on projects in the southern Philippines, particularly Mindanao, home to 30 per cent of the country's poor.

The Australian aid program recognises that among other needs, one third of Filipino children do not complete primary education and that malnutrition and preventable diseases are significant health problems.

The emphasis on governance reflects the Australian Government's belief that aid funding is more effective if the domestic policy settings of partner countries are conducive to development. Effective governance means competent management of a country's resources in a manner that is open, transparent, accountable, equitable and responsive to people's needs.

All Australian aid projects are designed and implemented in cooperation with Filipinos. The long-term strategy for development cooperation is reviewed regularly by the Australian Government in consultation with the Philippine Government.





Increased Australian assistance in Mindanao follows the signing of the peace agreement.

MINDANAO

Increased Australian assistance in Mindanao has been made possible as a result of the signing of the Final Peace Agreement between the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in September 1996.

In line with the Philippines' development priorities and the belief of the Australian Government that Australia's development cooperation should concentrate on the poorest regions, it was agreed in late 1996 that the island would be a particular focus of Australian aid.

Largely because of decades of unrest, Mindanao lags behind Luzon and the Visayas in many key areas, including education, health and infrastructure. The island accounts for about 20 per cent of the Philippine population and about 30 per cent of its poor.

Australia has so far committed a total A\$238 million (P6 billion) to aid projects in Mindanao.

These include A\$2.2 million (P55 million) through the United Nations Development Programme in support of emergency livelihood programs for former Moro National Liberation Front combatants and their families; the large "Integrated Community Health Services Project" in South Cotabato and Surigao del Norte, and the smaller-scale "Tribal Women's Health and Development Project" at Lake Sebu.

The health services project in South Cotabato and Surigao del Norte is providing both an immediate response to health problems such as diseases among infants and children and longer-term improvements in health service delivery. At Lake Sebu, the women's health project is helping to improve the health and social status of disadvantaged tribal women.



GOVERNANCE

Support for good governance is a key element of the Australian aid program, a commitment reinforced by the financial crisis in East Asia.

Most of the Australian Government's activities in the Philippines include components aimed at encouraging and assisting good governance, but Australia also funds projects aimed specifically at, for example, strengthening institutions and improving accountability.

One major activity underway at present - which Australia is financing jointly with the Asian Development Bank - is the "Philippines Regional Municipal Development Project" aimed at improving the ability of local government to provide, operate and maintain essential infrastructure and basic services. The ultimate goal of the project is to improve living conditions, public health and the urban environment of the seven participating cities of Bacolod, General Santos, Iligan, Legaspi, Lucena, Puerto Princesa and Tagbilaran.

In addition, a major new initiative on good governance has been developed in talks this year (1998) between the Philippine and Australian Governments. The initiative will include technical assistance aimed at strengthening the ability of national and local public-sector and civil institutions to develop and implement effective policies in the economic, political and administrative spheres.

Australia is also providing support for the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development established by the Philippine Government to lead and coordinate peace and development efforts in the country's south.

The Australian Government also supports non-government aid agencies active in the Special Zone of Peace and Development in the southern Philippines and in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.



A commitment reinforced by the financial crisis in East Asia.



Support for education and training programs has traditionally accounted for the largest share of Australian Government aid funding.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In the Philippines, support for education and training programs has traditionally accounted for the largest share of Australian Government aid funding.

This reflects the fact that education is a basic building block of development. Education at all levels equips people to participate in the economy and society. As 70 per cent of the world's poor are women, education for women and girls is particularly important for poverty reduction.

The Australian aid program places an emphasis on basic and technical and vocational education. In particular, it supports Philippine Government initiatives to ensure universal access to schooling and stronger links between education and employment.

The Australian Government also provides postgraduate scholarships to Filipinos to study in Australia. Since 1990, more than 2,500 scholarship holders have undertaken tertiary studies at Australian institutions.

Important Australian-funded education projects in the Philippines include the "Philippines-Australia Project on Basic Education" and the "Philippines-Australia Short-Term Training Project".

The aim of the five-year basic education project, to which Australia is contributing around A\$30 million (P750 million), is to improve the teaching and learning of English, science and mathematics in elementary and secondary schools. The short-term training project, to which Australia will contribute A\$8 million (P200 million), will provide specially-targeted training for employees in public sector departments, local government and non-government organisations, with the aim of encouraging good governance.





Australia's health assistance to the Philippines aims to help the Philippine Government reduce high rates of maternal and child mortality and morbidity.

HEALTH

The primary objective of Australia's health assistance to the Philippines is to help the Philippine Government reduce high rates of maternal and child mortality and morbidity in rural communities due to preventable diseases. Such diseases, including respiratory infections, diarrhoea, tuberculosis and measles, are the country's leading cause of deaths.

Australian Government health aid is directed at both the local and national level and since 1992 has averaged A\$17 million (P425 million) per year. In recent years, the program has also focused on water and sanitation, reproductive health including family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, and disease control and eradication.

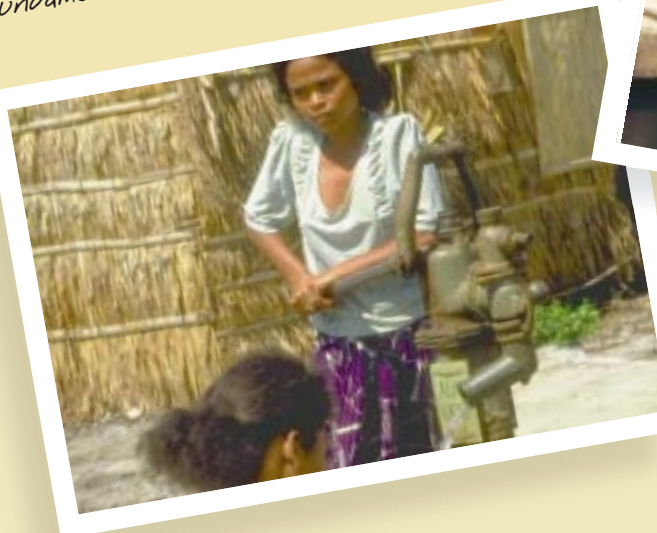
Australian assistance is designed to provide simple, cost-effective methods of prevention and treatment. It also aims to strengthen local governments to help them manage more effectively the provision of health services.

Projects funded by the Australian Government include the "Integrated Community Health Services Project", to which Australia is contributing approximately \$19.5 million (P490 million) in grant aid. Under the project, also being funded by the Asian Development Bank, there will be an immediate response to pneumonia, diarrhoeal diseases and tuberculosis among infants and children in South Cotabato and Surigao del Norte, followed by a longer-term emphasis on integrated community-based approaches to health planning and service delivery.





Essential infrastructure, such as water supply, sanitation, energy supplies, transport, and communications, is fundamental to sustainable development.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Essential infrastructure, such as water supply and sanitation, energy supplies, transport, and communications, is fundamental to sustainable development.

Australian assistance for infrastructure projects is targeted carefully so that it does not displace private funds and is aimed at helping the Philippine Government provide vital infrastructure services for all people who need them.

Successful projects funded or partially funded by Australia in the Philippines include the Municipal Solar Infrastructure Project. This project is installing over one thousand solar systems in remote villages in the Visayas and Mindanao. The systems will provide power for hospitals and rural health centres, schools and community centres, communal lighting, water supply systems and local government offices.





Rural development is a key factor in the long-term sustainable development of the Philippines.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural development is a key factor in the long-term sustainable development of the Philippines. Half of the Philippine population lives in rural areas and two-thirds of those people are involved in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector.

Australia has substantial expertise in the sector and has traditionally been a major supporter of rural development activities in the Philippines.

This support has focused particularly on improving agricultural practices, and agricultural education at community, provincial and regional levels.

By helping to educate and to provide low-cost, appropriate technology to farmers, Australia has sought to assist in increasing agricultural productivity. One project for which Australia provided this type of assistance was the now-completed "Pilot Provincial Agricultural Extension Project" which was able to increase the incomes of its beneficiaries by up to 240 per cent.

Australia is also providing assistance through the "Agriculture Technology Education Project" which is helping to upgrade 14 agricultural education institutions to meet more effectively the training needs of small farmers and those involved in agribusiness.



One of the best ways to alleviate poverty is through direct support for local communities.



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

One of the best ways to alleviate poverty is through direct support for local communities. The "Philippines Australia Community Assistance Program" (PACAP) is a unique program which supports community-based development projects aimed at raising the living standards of poor and marginalised communities.

It does this by providing grant funding, as well as technical advice, directly to local non-government and people's organisations.

PACAP provides grants to projects assisting landless agricultural workers and small farmers, urban poor, women, indigenous groups, fisherpeople, youth and the disabled.

The many projects undertaken with PACAP funding include rehabilitation of mangroves in the Province of Aklan for fishing-related activities; construction and maintenance of fish traps in the Province of Antique; and establishment of a bee-keeping enterprise which will benefit the poor in the region of Cagayan de Oro City.



Working together on development issues will be a vital part of taking the partnership forward into the new century.



A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NEW CENTURY

Cooperation between Australians and Filipinos on development issues reflects the importance both countries attach to the relationship and to the reduction of poverty.

Working together on development issues will be a vital part of taking the Australia-Philippines partnership forward into the new century.



“

*We live in the same part of the world and we have a common outlook....
The goodwill engendered through Australia-Philippines development cooperation will
remain an important part of the relationship.*

”

ALEXANDER DOWNER

Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs