

MINDANAO

ACTIVITY: Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Institutional Assessment

COMPONENT: Human Resource Development

PROJECT: Comprehensive Capacity Development Program for ARMM (CCDP-A)

Background:

On 15 October 2012, the Framework Agreement on Bangsamoro (FAB) was signed between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The FAB calls for the creation of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) as well as the formation of the Bangsamoro government in 2016.

JICA recognizes that the pursuit of lasting peace and development in Mindanao must include enhancement or establishment of institutional mechanisms and organizations and, hence, the Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (CCDP-A) was launched.

The ARMM Institutional Assessment Project is a component of CCDP-A that aims to synthesize the lessons from the experience and devolution of ARMM so that recommendations on how to strengthen regional autonomy under the proposed Bangsamoro Government can be made.

Contact Details:

Ms. Tomoko Yasunaga, Project Coordinator

Address: JICA Cotabato Project Office, 3rd Floor, Al Nor Building, Sinsuat Avenue, Cotabato City

Email: masuda.cpo@gmail.com

Telephone Nos: (064)552-0269

Project Duration: November 2013 – April 2014

Project Summary:

This research study is a rapid review of the state of decentralization and devolution in the ARMM, and how the situation impacts on the regional government's institutional capacities. It looked into the administrative, fiscal, and political dimensions of regional autonomy, as these manifest in the ARMM's legal and policy environment, institutional design, organizational structure, and inter-governmental relations at the following levels: national and sub-national (central-regional), sub-national and local (regional-local), and between the regional executive and regional legislature

The Project involved the assessment of the following:

- Systematic description and assessment of administrative, fiscal and political dimensions of decentralization and devolution;
- Comparisons of the ARMM vis-à-vis the devolution as envisioned in the 1996 Final Peace Agreement, and the Annexes on wealth-sharing and power-sharing in the Framework Agreement on Bangsamoro;
- Examination of the regional government's human resources management; and
- Identification of contextual and proximate causes for the deficiencies in decentralization and devolution.

The research led to various findings and recommendations which have been shared to the various relevant agencies for appropriate actions to be taken in the hopes of strengthening the institutions of the region.