Inter-local Cooperation in the Philippines

Ranell Martin Dedicatoria
Pamela Cabacungan
ICLEI Southeast Asia Secretariat
What is “Inter-Local Cooperation”?

Inter-Local Cooperation refers to the arrangement wherein geographically adjacent local government units (LGUs) enter into an agreement to jointly plan and implement development projects, programs and initiatives. (Manasan and Mercado, 1998)
The formation of Inter-Local Cooperation looks into the following crucial elements: purpose, structures and systems, resources. The institutional, financial, and legal aspects were identified as crucial factors to consider in achieving a harmonious interplay of the three elements. (Philippine Development Forum, 2010)

Figure 1. Framework of the Critical Ingredients in Building and Sustaining Inter-Local Cooperation, Philippine Development Forum (2011)
Critical Institutional Aspects
(Philippine Development Forum, 2010)

- Identify an alliance champion
- Common base
- Active involvement of local executives
- Implementing structure
- Identify a trigger issue that needs urgent attention and action from the alliance
- Develop a strategic plan
- Adopt a Manual of Operations
- Transformation of projects into essential service to ensure sustainability
- Capacity to adapt to changing conditions and new challenges
Critical Legal Aspects
(Philippine Development Forum, 2010)

- Adoption of a binding legal instrument
- LGU concurrence to the MOA
- Mandatory review of the MOA
- Adoption of joint resolutions
- Ratification of agreements and decisions
- Harmonization of policies by member-LGUs.
- Creation of legal mechanisms to address non-compliance to the MOA
Critical Financial Aspects
(Philippine Development Forum, 2010)

- Commitment among member-LGUs to share the responsibility of financing the alliance
- Use of an acceptable formula for the monetary contribution of members
- Timely and regular collection of committed funds
- Sharing of other monetary and non-monetary resources
- Capacity and will to generate own revenues
- Capability to tap external sources of funds
- Matching of resources with goals and programs
- Ensuring proper funds management arrangement
- Use of appropriate guidelines in fund utilization
- Transparency in financial transactions
Legal Basis of Inter-Local Cooperation

Section 13, Article X of the 1987 Philippine Constitution

“Local government units may group themselves, consolidate or coordinate their efforts, services and resources for purposes commonly beneficial to them in accordance with law.”

Section 35 of the 1991 Local Government Code (RA 7160)

“Local government units may enter into joint ventures and such cooperative arrangements with people’s and non-governmental organizations to engage in the delivery of certain basic services, capability-building and livelihood projects, and to develop local enterprises to improve productivity and income, diversify agriculture, spur rural industrialization, promote ecological balance, and enhance the social well-being of the people.”
The Philippine Laws that promote inter-local cooperation:

- The Philippine Fisheries Code
- The National Integrated Protected Areas System Act
- The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act
- Executive Order 205 series of 2000 for the establishment of Inter-Local Health Zones
- The Urban Development and Housing Act
Drivers of Inter-Local Cooperation in the Philippines (Natad, 2011)

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References

