



Republic of the Philippines

National Economic and Development Authority

WELCOME REMARKS
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Delivered by

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Philippines Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation (CSPE) Roundtable Workshop

November 16, 2016 | 9:00 AM

Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City

Greetings

A pleasant morning to our esteemed guests, Deputy Director Fabrizio Felloni, AVP Perin Saint Ange, Director Hoonae Kim, Mr. Omer Zafar, our colleagues in the government, friends in the non-government organizations, private sector, and our development and donor partners. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Country Strategy Programme Evaluation Roundtable Workshop.

Introduction

This is an opportune time to thank IFAD as Philippines' generous donor partner for almost four decades. We would like to extend in saying that IFAD's

assistance to the Philippines undoubtedly contributed in the attainment of poverty reduction and rural development. Over the years, IFAD continuously contributed to the agricultural development of the Philippine rural, upland, and coastal areas. As of June 2016, IFAD's share of about one percent to the total ODA loan portfolio with a net commitment of USD 113 million which placed it at 5th in the ranking of Philippine development partners in relation to loan assistance to the country.

We are fortunate enough that IFAD conducted CSPE in our country for the first time. Today, we are gathered here to listen to an independent evaluation findings and assessment of IFAD's assistance from 2009 to 2016 that determined what went well, what went wrong, and how to do better. The same hopes to propel future-planning, mainly in the formulation of the new Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP). We have been through good times, tough times, and in the midst of vulnerability given different economic and political shifts. The new administration posed a promising start for new opportunities, renewal of or new ties, and new projects. That is the reason we look back on our accomplishments to see how lessons learned will fit into the opportunities this new beginning brings and to provide valuable points for the Government to consider.

The new administration's 10 Point Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) drive our agencies to align with successor

Philippine Development Plan (PDP), its attendant Results Matrices (RMs), and Public Investment Program (PIP) with the said agenda. As such, we recognize IFAD's substantive contributions in improving the lives of our fellow countrymen, specifically in the area of rural development. Of the 10 point agenda, IFAD and Philippine development cooperation should continue to evolve under the administration's 5th agenda, which aims to promote rural and value chain development toward increasing agriculture and rural enterprise productivity and rural tourism.

With that, we see this event as an avenue to reflect on the Country Strategy Programme Evaluation findings and recommendations resentations and reflections, which will be followed by group discussions on targeting approach, institutional arrangements, and land tenure security, and a discussion on future directions of NG-IFAD partnership. This provides strategic opportunities for us to forge and strengthen areas for future collaboration and at the same time sustain the gains on what we have already started.

May we once again enjoin your full support and cooperation to this workshop. May we have a fruitful discussion on the matters at hand.

Thank you very much.