

Philippines Program Summary

The Philippines' program is focused on enhancing anti-corruption efforts by strengthening the Office of the Ombudsman, improving revenue administration and increasing enforcement capacity within the Department of Finance.

Program Highlights

- ★ The final version of the Customs Tariff and Modernization Bill was presented to the Bureau of Customs after extensive consultations with stakeholders. This bill will upgrade and modernize the customs administration to be in line with the Revised Kyoto Convention.
- ★ A total of 38 officials were charged by the Revenue Integrity Protection Services (RIPS) and suspended by the Ombudsman between 2005 and 2009 with support of the Philippines' MCC Threshold Program. The RIPS hotline is operational and additional public outreach efforts were conducted this quarter.
- ★ With MCC Threshold Program support, 97% of the Bureau of Internal Revenue's District Offices were connected to the automated Integrated Tax System which allows for a standardized and systematic collection procedure.
- ★ Through MCC Threshold Program's assistance, the Department of Justice has established a computerized database to track the progress of its smuggling and tax evasion cases.
- ★ The Office of the Ombudsman maintained its 55% cumulative conviction rate for cases that underwent trial plus guilty pleas between 2005 and 2009. However, the annual conviction rate rose to 76% in 2008 (from 19% in 2006). In addition, the Ombudsman filed 433 new cases before the Sandiganbayan in 2008.
- ★ A 5 day training course on strategic planning and management for anti-corruption was provided to 26 members of civil society organizations. Following the training, the group produced several recommendations for the Ombudsman including the establishment of a performance scorecard to increase public confidence in anti-corruption reforms.

Threshold Status

Status.....Implementation, Year 2

Threshold Information

Total Amount.....\$21 million

Agreement Signed.....July 26, 2006

Country Information

Population.....83,054,480*

GNI Per Capita Income.....\$1,300*