

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
IN THE PHILIPPINES

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**The Asia Foundation**

**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**  
**Towards Transforming Conflicts into Manageable Disputes**  
Semi-Annual Report 01 January to 30 June 2005

This semi-annual report covers activities from January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005 under the Conflict Management in the Philippines (CMP) Program of The Asia Foundation through a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with grant number AID 492-G-00-03-00026. The total grant amount is \$1,300,000 covering the period beginning October 1, 2003 and ending on September 30, 2006. This semi-annual report is in compliance with the instructions under the Office of Regional Procurement (ORP) No. 18 dated August 19, 2003 and ORP No. 20 dated February 2, 2004.

## **Background**

In late 2002, The Asia Foundation supported a conflict survey in Mindanao on local residents' perceptions of conflict in the region. The results of the survey showed that while the Muslim-Christian conflict in Mindanao dominates the international and local press, clan violence (*rido*) is actually more pertinent in the daily life of the people. Citizens are more concerned about the prevalence of clan conflict and its negative impact on their communities than the conflict between the state and rebel groups in Mindanao. These findings illustrated the complexity of conflicts in Mindanao, and served as a take-off point for the Foundation's thrust towards a deeper understanding of conflict dynamics. Building upon this initial research and drawing upon the Foundation's wealth of experience in peace-building through its governance and legal reform programs, the Foundation's conflict management program was developed.

The Asia Foundation's USAID-funded Conflict Management in the Philippines (CMP) Program aims to address the issues of conflict management using multiple approaches to address two distinct types of conflict affecting the Philippines: **Endemic Clan Conflict** and **Community Conflicts over Natural Resources**. Given that conflict is inherent in the process of change and development, the program's goal is not to eliminate but to transform conflicts into manageable disputes and debates. The CMP Program accomplishes this goal through better knowledge of the dynamics of the specific conflict; enhanced conflict resolution mechanisms; improved communication channels within the affected communities and between government and community groups; and policy-oriented substantive discussions with inputs from key stakeholders.

## **Addressing Endemic Clan Conflict**

Facilitating peace and development in Mindanao continues to be one of the most difficult challenges facing the Philippines. Political instability and the conflicts in Mindanao continue to undermine efforts to improve the country's economy and governance. Key to addressing the conflicts in Mindanao is disentangling the complex nature of conflicts. For instance,

while the widely-held stereotype is that violence is perpetuated by separatists or other armed groups resorting to terrorism to further their political goals, studies supported by The Asia Foundation point to clan violence as a major cause of conflict. Further, this type of conflict interacts with separatism, banditry and military involvement. Based on these realities, the Foundation has focused on gaining a deeper understanding of specific conflicts in Mindanao in order to design and implement strategic interventions to enable communities and government to address the problem.

The Asia Foundation pursued a coordinated in-depth study on clan conflicts (*rido*) in partnership with Mindanao-based academic institutions and civil society organizations. The Foundation convened a series of meetings with scholars and individuals from academic institutions and NGOs who are experts on Mindanao issues and clan violence. These meetings assessed the state of research on clan violence, clarified issues surrounding *rido*, and set directions for research on the topic. Through the discussions, cases of clan violence and escalation were highlighted and clarifications were made on the nature and stages of *rido* and the various types of clan conflict. The discussion also generated important methodological questions and preliminary research problems were proposed by the participants. The series of meetings laid the groundwork for systematic research on clan conflict.

#### Highlights (1 January – 30 June 2005)

- The coordinated investigation of clan conflicts was able to unravel the dynamics of these conflicts, such as its root causes, the parties involved, the process of escalation, the conflict resolution mechanisms and processes, and its relationship with other forms of conflict. In the effort to disseminate and validate the results of the study, a series of public forums were organized. On May 31 and June 1, 2005, Mindanawon Initiatives for Cultural Dialogue (MICD) and the Ateneo de Zamboanga University (ADZU) jointly organized a workshop-conference entitled ***“Taking Rido Seriously: Top Level Analysis of Clan Conflicts in Mindanao”***. The conference, which was held in Davao City, aimed to deepen understanding of family, clan and communal conflicts among various stakeholders of peace and development in Mindanao; analyze the links between these local conflicts and state-related conflicts; and explore and initiate strategic interventions on conflict management and conflict transformation. Three researchers were selected to give a synthesis presentation of the nine studies. They were: Prof. Abhoud Syed Lingga (Institute of Bangsamoro Studies), Dr. Ofelia Durante (Ateneo de Zamboanga University) and Mr. Jowel Canuday (Minnanawon Initiatives for Cultural Dialogue). The forum described to Mindanao stakeholders the prevalence of clan conflicts across Mindanao, and provided an opportunity for them to validate the findings, deepen insights on clan conflicts, and explore ways to address the conflict. More than 120 participants attended the conference. The participants included representatives from the government, NGOs, the academe, women sector, people’s organizations, traditional and religious leaders. Datu Ibrahim Paglas III, a victim of *rido*, gave a testimony on his personal experience with clan conflict. The conference was featured by the local media such as MindaNews and Mindanao Times.

- In partnership with the Manila-based Foundation for Communication Initiatives (FOCI) and Newsbreak, a forum and photo exhibit on *rido* entitled: “***The Big and Silent Killer: Getting to the Bottom of Rido***” was held on June 15, 2005 in Makati in Metro Manila. The activity, which slightly differed from the Davao conference, focused on familiarizing a national-level audience about *rido* and its relationship to conflicts of national concern. The forum was attended by representatives from government, donors, NGOs, the embassies, academe and media. Aside from the presentation of the research findings, four speakers shared their personal experiences on *rido*: Dr. Dalumabi Bula from the Mindanao State University-Marawi, Don Mustapha Loong, Provincial Administrator of Sulu, Datu Ibrahim Paglas III of the Paglas Group of Companies in Maguindanao, and Maj. Dickson Hermoso of the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities. In a two-week period after the Manila forum, news of the event made it to major newspapers (Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Times, Philippine Star, and Business World). Many papers carried the write up on international wire services Reuters and Agence France-Presse. Business World also featured the event through its senior writer Norman Aquino. Newsbreak Magazine highlighted the *rido* forum in its July 18, 2005 issue. The event and details of the *rido* study were also posted in at least 25 websites (INQ7, ABS-CBN Interactive, etc.). All of these articles cited the USAID and The Asia Foundation as having provided support to the study of *rido*.
- The *rido* forums in Davao and Manila generated a lot of interest from various stakeholders. Recognizing the importance of these studies, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) endorsed the presentation of the results of the *rido* studies to the members of the Joint CCCH. Composed of a team from the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the Joint CCCH, together with the International Monitoring Team (IMT) headed by Malaysia, is tasked to monitor the ceasefire between the government and the MILF. In response to this request, a team from the Foundation and its partners in the clan conflict research provided a special briefing on *rido* during the 7<sup>th</sup> IMT & GRP-MILF CCCH Tripartite Meeting held on June 29, 2005 in General Santos City. The researchers presented the study findings to the members of the Joint GRP-MILF CCCH, the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG), the Local Monitoring Teams (LMT) and the IMT.
- During this reporting period, the research partners conducted several workshops to validate and refine the initial data gathered. The Ateneo de Zamboanga University and Notre Dame University conducted a series of validation workshops in Lanao del Sur, Sultan Kudarat, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi from February 10 to March 15. A total of 108 participants from local governments, traditional leaders, media, business, academe, NGOs, People’s Organizations, military, government agencies and youth attended the validation sessions. Elsewhere, the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society held a Summit between Muslims and Indigenous Peoples in Kidapawan on April 4 to 6 to present the results of the key informant interviews and focused group discussions generated from the clan conflict study. There were 104 participants from

12 community areas of North Cotabato and Bukidnon who attended the summit. The workshop also became a venue for a successful dialogue between the Moro and Manobo communities that were disputing over territories near the boundary of North Cotabato and Bukidnon.

- Three additional articles on *rido* were published by *Newsbreak Magazine* beginning January 2005. The articles are the last three in a series of seven articles about *rido* published by *Newsbreak* as a result of an Asia Foundation grant. “*Cheap Guns, Costly Feuds*” (published January 17) focused on the high costs of settling clan feuds; “*It’s All About Power*” (published February 18) described how the feud between two political clans in Maguindanao threatens the peace talks between government and rebel forces; and the last article in the series, “*The Big Kill*” (published April 25), completes the special reports on *rido*, and reported that clan conflicts, not terrorism, are the most common source of violence in Mindanao.

## **Addressing Community Conflicts over Natural Resources**

In the Philippines, natural resources conflicts not only divide and disrupt communities, they can also lead to violent confrontations with government. These conflicts hamper productivity, investment, economic growth, and may in some cases lead to armed insurgency. To address community conflicts over natural resources, the Foundation supports environmental NGOs that assist in strengthening the capacity of the national government’s resource management departments, promote negotiation coaching among communities, and support conflict management strategies for multiple-stakeholder conflicts.

### Highlights (1 January – 30 June 2005)

- On January 25, the Community Organizers’ Multiversity (CO-Multiversity) conducted a training on Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) in Sitio Poracan, Brgy. Barorao, Balabagan, Lanao del Sur. PCIA assesses the ways in which a development intervention affects the dynamics of peace or conflict in a conflict-prone region. The PCIA training in January was the last of a series being conducted in seven selected communities in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat. Thirty-four participants, composed of religious leaders, barangay officials and representatives of people’s organizations, attended the training. After the training, participants organized meetings to iron out problems related to the water system project in Barorao as a way of applying the skills learned from the training. The COM designed a manual on PCIA and Mediation based on their experiences on the field under this project. A draft of this manual was shared during the multi-stakeholders’ workshop on community-based PCIA and mediation (see below).
- On June 20-23, 2005, Community Organizers’ Multiversity conducted in Davao City a Multi-stakeholders’ Workshop on the Community-Based Application of Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) and Mediation. CO-Multiversity discussed the basic principles, concepts and paths of the culture of peace, and shared with the

participants their experiences in the application of PCIA and mediation in community-based peace initiatives. The draft manual on PCIA and mediation contained case stories culled out from the field under this project.

- From February 22 to 23, a training on Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) and Conflict Mapping was conducted by the Community Extension Service of the Notre Dame of Jolo College in Sulu. The training helped build the capacity of leaders from the target and adjacent communities in Sulu province to find ways to peacefully settle community resource conflicts in their areas. The training had 33 participants composed of municipal and barangay officials from Hadji Panglima Tahil municipality, Sulu. The other participants included representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Education, the media, and the religious sector. A follow-up training on Mediation and Negotiation Coaching was held on June 27-28 for a group of 43 participants representing local government officials, peoples' organizations, indigenous groups, traditional and community leaders, women and youth sectors and the Office of the Sulu Provincial Administrator, to apply the skills learned from the PCIA trainings, the target communities are currently conducting actual mapping of conflicts, mediation and negotiation coaching.
- On April 27-29, 2005, seventy persons attended a three-day conference on "Best Mediation Practices on Resource Use and Land Tenure Conflicts". Organized by the Mediators' Network for Sustainable Peace (MEDNET), the conference aimed to strengthen the theory and practice of mediation in resource-use disputes in the Philippines and bring to the mainstream the best practices in mediation. Nineteen local best mediation cases were presented, including two cases in Australia and Indonesia. Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles of the Office of the Presidential Assistant on the Peace Process provided the keynote speech, while Department of Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Soliman gave the closing remarks.
- The Foundation issued a one-year grant to the Environmental Legal Assistance Center, Inc. (ELAC) to assist in building the capacities of selected communities in Cebu (Bantayan), Bohol (Mabini) and Palawan (Culion) to manage conflict in coastal resource management. ELAC will conduct a series of facilitating meetings, discussions and workshops to identify feasible solutions to the conflict involved; assist and monitor the implementation of the proposed solutions and evaluate their effectiveness; and identify resource management mechanisms that would facilitate consensus building, such as zoning plans, resource use or management plans, or alternative livelihood options. Insights or possible "best practices" on managing resource use conflicts will also be generated to determine the elements needed for conflict management to succeed.
- The Foundation issued a one-year grant to the University of the Philippines Social Action for Research and Development Foundation, Inc. (UPSARDF) to enable them to engage and strengthen local structures such as the Lupong Tagapamayapa (Peace Council), Barangay Council and Municipal Courts to better resolve and prevent the

escalation of conflict situations arising from the marine protected areas recently established in Anda, Pangasinan. Initial promotion of the Conflict Management Project started on May 12, 2005. On June 9, representatives from the government and people's organizations attended the formal launch of the project.

- On April 4-7, Sentro Para sa Ganap na Pamayanan, Inc. (SENTRO) organized a midterm assessment with project partners to gauge the progress made by the project partners since their reported activities in December 2004. The project partners from the B'laan, Teduray and Erumanen Menuvu communities have made considerable breakthroughs in the conflicts they are trying to resolve or manage. The midterm assessment was followed by an exit conference on conflict management on June 29-30, 2005 in Cotabato City. Twenty-eight participants from the Erumanen en Menuvu, Téduray and the B'laan tribes reported on the project milestones and planned on the next course of action, keeping in mind the progress made thus far, considering the new issues affecting their communities.
- On April 28-30, 2005, an introductory course on Alternative Dispute Resolution was given by Tanggol Kalikasan (TK) to barangay officials of Tagkawayan, Quezon. The event was attended by a total of 83 participants—30 barangay captains, 38 barangay officials and 15 participants from the Sangguniang Bayan, Municipal Environment and Natural Resource Officer or Municipal Planning and Development Officer. The training was conducted in tandem with TK's Institute of Environmental Governance trainings. Also related to the activities of TK, selected project officers and senior lawyers of TK participated in a workshop on training design and module development held on February 17-18, 2005 in preparation for the negotiation coaching training for NGOs and PO leaders.

### **Strengthening Partnerships, Promoting Linkages and Sustaining Dialogues**

As it has for the past 50 years, the Foundation supports activities in the Philippines that strengthen the capacities of its partners, increase their networking opportunities, and promote an atmosphere conducive for dialogues. Such efforts ensure greater opportunities for partners to exchange ideas and collaborate on initiatives. In line with this, the Foundation has supported the following activities:

- On March 16-18, The Asia Foundation supported the participation of two civil society representatives from Mindanao, Mr. Jowel Canuday and Ms. Monalinda Doro, to the 16th Annual Graduate Student Conference in Hawaii. The conference, which was organized by the University of Hawaii School of Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Studies, had the theme: "Intersections and Boundaries: Multidisciplinary Perspective on Asia and the Pacific". The conference showcased current graduate research in Asia and the Pacific from diverse regional and disciplinary perspectives and moved past traditional academic boundaries by providing a forum for interdisciplinary and inter-area exchange. Ms. Monalinda Doro and Mr. Jose Jowel Canuday respectively presented

papers entitled: "Beyond the Global and State War on Terror: Indigenous Peacemaking in a Muslim Community in the Philippines" and "Narratives, Assertions and Spaces: The Case of the Internally Displaced Persons in Central Mindanao". The conference papers resulted from the research on *rido* conducted by Ms. Doro and Mr. Canuday under the TAF-supported Conflict Management Program. The conference papers, which were subjected earlier to a peer review, helped raise the profile of *rido* for international discussion. After the conference, the paper of Mr. Canuday was awarded best paper and presentation in Philippine Studies.

- In an effort to allow for a broader exchange of ideas between journalists from Manila and Mindanao, The Asia Foundation sponsored the participation of four Mindanao-based journalists in the Pagbabago@Pilipinas-organized Media Nation Two Summit held on February 4-5 at the Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay. Ms. Babylyn Kano Omar from DXGD AM, Sulu Tawi-Tawi Broadcasting Station, Mr. Joey Dalumpines of the Mindanao Times, Ms. Samira Gutoc and Mr. Jowel Canuday, both from Mindanews joined the more than 100 participants which represented journalists from the tri-media, media owners, and media-focused civil society groups.
- On April 25, the Social Weather Stations, in partnership with the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies and Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women, organized a briefing on the TAF-supported surveys on "The Participation of Women in Peace, Governance and Development in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)". DSWD-ARMM Secretary Bainon Karon gave the keynote address. About 112 guests mostly from Muslim and women civil society organizations, government agencies and local government units. The presentation was a product of 3 surveys: the first was commissioned by the Mindanao Commission on Women (MCW) with support from the Australian Government through the Philippines-Australia Governance Facility (PAGF); and the second and third by The Asia Foundation under the CMP. The second survey, which also contained the core questions of MCW, focused specially on the ARMM and dealt with questions on conflict and conflict management. The three surveys were conducted separately between October to December, 2004. The more focused ARMM surveys sponsored by the Foundation and USAID generated statistically valid generalizations on the specific contributions of Muslim women to peace, development and governance. Through the more focused ARMM surveys, a more meaningful comparison of data was made with the national survey commissioned by MCW.

## **Project Milestones, Insights and Opportunities**

### **The Clan Conflict Research as a Process of Engagement**

The coordinated investigation of clan conflicts (*rido*) was finally completed during this reporting period. The results of the studies were presented in two major conferences in Davao and in Manila, and in a special briefing for the Joint Coordinating Committee on

the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) in General Santos City. It is expected that the results will be further disseminated in other forums.

The *rido* conference in Davao gave Mindanao stakeholders a broader view on the nature, scope, magnitude and dynamics of clan conflicts. The forum also enabled the participants to validate the findings of the various studies and further deepen insights about *rido*. While Mindanaoans might have had personal experiences on *rido*, the conference made them realize that the *rido* was a much wider phenomenon. Moreover, *rido* and other types of clan conflicts have not really been studied comprehensively prior to the studies spearheaded by The Asia Foundation and USAID. At the Davao conference, the participants gained a better understanding of the prevalence of *rido* across Mindanao; many of them were struck by the scope and magnitude of such conflicts. Meanwhile, the Manila forum brought *rido* to the attention of a national audience and especially challenged media to be vigilant about the nuances of these conflicts in their reportage.

Several insights were generated from the forums. First, there is a danger that clan conflicts can affect the peace process and endanger future peace agreements. Since studies have shown that clan conflicts tend to interact with the separatist conflict and with other armed groups, taking *rido* into account is critical in the progress of future peace agreements. During the *rido* study presentation with the Joint CCCH, the same sentiment was echoed by the head of the International Monitoring Team, Malaysian Major General Dato Zulkifeli Bin Mohd Zin, who cited that *rido* is one of the main causes of ceasefire violations. Second, the *rido* studies, as well as testimonials and experiences shared by participants in the Davao conference, have shown that existing initiatives on the ground can be harnessed to address clan violence. These initiatives range from efforts of civil society groups and local governments, government mechanisms such as the CCCH, the MILF revolutionary courts, to the initiatives of the military/police in settling such conflicts. Finally, during the conference, the participants and the media realized the importance of sharing the study findings to the local governments, the military and the police. .

The USAID-funded study of clan conflict through The Asia Foundation is a landmark study not only because it enriched the social sciences through its significant contribution to conflict literature, but it also hit a critical issue which is relevant to many communities in Mindanao in their pursuit of peace and development in the region. The study is the product of sincere dialogue and engagement of the Foundation with the researchers, the communities, and stakeholders. The entire process, from the study conceptualization, research proper, validations, and subsequent conferences, was very reflexive and participatory. The researchers conceptualized their studies within the realities of their own communities and critiqued each study collegially. The public forums became a venue for constructive dialogue between the researchers and the stakeholders which further refined and strengthened the studies. Consequently, the *rido* study has generated a great deal of discussion and interest from various sectors, raising the level of awareness and understanding about *rido* in the general public, and encouraging informed action from concerned sectors.

### **Toward Addressing Community Resource Conflicts: Some Milestones**

Projects with partners involved in addressing community resource conflicts are starting to bear fruit. In the province of Sulu, longstanding conflicts have existed in island communities over marine resources particularly for fishing, aquatic foraging and seaweed farming. These conflicts are further exacerbated by the armed conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and elements of the Abu Sayaff, the conflict among local political clans, and by the existing prejudices of neighboring ethnic groups like the Tausug and the Sama. This is the context behind the TAF-supported project of the Notre Dame of Jolo College, which tries to manage and resolve marine resource conflicts in two communities in Hadji Panglima Tahil municipality. Pursuant to this goal, the Notre Dame of Jolo College has completed their trainings on PCIA, negotiation coaching, mediation and conflict mapping. Involved in these trainings were community stakeholders who include traditional leaders and government officials. Notre Dame, together with the stakeholders, is currently utilizing the principles learned in the trainings to find solutions to these conflicts. Initial feedback on the community-based application of the trainings is quite positive as contending parties are now meeting to discuss these problems. It was also observed that there was a marked improvement in the relationships between competing ethnic groups in the project areas. Impressed with the activities of Notre Dame, other civil society groups in Sulu are also requesting similar trainings. The Provincial Government of Sulu has also requested a team to re-echo these trainings to the other conflict-affected municipalities in Sulu.

In the area of North Cotabato, North Upi in Maguindanao, and Malapatan in Sarangani, the Sentro Para Sa Ganap na Pamayanan, Inc. (SENTRO) has been undertaking activities to help manage resource conflicts among indigenous communities of the Erumanen Menuvu, the Teduray/Lambangian and the B'laan. The nature of resource conflicts in these three areas vary. The B'laan of Malapatan, Sarangani for instance, are trying to manage conflicts with the "*bandido*" (individuals and groups who, for various reasons have taken up arms and have become fugitives thereby affecting the law and order in the B'laan communities). The Teduray and the Lambangian of North Upi are trying to find ways to best resolve their existing conflict with the Maguindanao Coastal Logging Concession (MCLC) who had encroached in an area which the Teduray/Lambangian consider their ancestral domain. The Erumanen Menuvu of North Cotabato are trying to resolve their territorial dispute with migrant settlers and Muslims. SENTRO previously undertook two major capacity-building activities with the stakeholders in these communities to create support mechanisms towards the management and resolution of long-standing resource conflicts. The trainings include, "Research Training on Indigenous Conflict Management" and "Conflict Management Training".

The indigenous groups involved in the project admit having experienced a lot of difficulties along the way. In their experience with their communities, residents faced with resource conflicts due to encroachment or the entry of development projects, are not in agreement in their stand with regard to these issues. Consequently, some peoples' organizations are focusing on activities that would initially process the issues within their

own communities and unify their leadership so they would have a common position on dealing with encroachment and other stakeholders. The peoples' organizations recognize that solving a conflict in their communities is a very long process, and that one project period is not enough. However, despite the lack of resources, the concerned groups believe that they have achieved some milestones because of their efforts. These milestones include the opportunities to dialogue with other stakeholders, such as government officials, the *bandidos*, the migrant settlers and the Moro communities, in order to discuss the issue. Another achievement is the involvement of the youth, who have been encouraged to conduct research, profile areas within their ancestral domain, and assist communities in settling internal conflicts. All three indigenous groups are confident that they can slowly build upon these milestones towards resolving conflicts.

In Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, and Sultan Kudarat, the CO Multiversity is also gaining headway in their series of trainings on PCIA as communities are applying the trainings to avoid and resolve conflicts caused by the influx of development projects in their communities. This is illustrated in at least two projects: a water project in Brgy. Barorao, Balabagan, Lanao del Sur, and an electrification project in Bayanga Norte, Matanog, Maguindanao. The conflicts caused by the water system project in Barorao were due to the unfair access of one influential household to the water outlet. Through mediation and PCIA, community members agreed on the strategic placement of faucets to ensure the equitable access and distribution of water to the households. In the case of the electrification project in Bayanga Norte, the conflict began with the breakdown of the motor which supplies electricity to the barangay. The motor's owner, who was not getting just compensation from the community for the motor rental services, threatened to pull out the motor because of the community members' failure to maintain and repair the machine. The threat of pullout caused uproar among the community members; the outrage almost led to a *rido*. Moreover, the halt in the supply of electricity resulted in the pilfering of some electric cables. Through the PCIA and mediation skills acquired by some of the community leaders, they were able to assess the situation and realize that if the problem is unresolved, it would create more problems and conflicts. Hence, the community reached a solution which involved socialized payment based on the financial status of the family, a counterpart from the local government, and the framing of policies related to electrification.

### **Next Steps**

It is expected that the next steps in clan conflict management will involve more dissemination of the study. Partner institutions in the *rido* study, such as the Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Notre Dame University, RIMCU of Xavier University and Mindanao State University Marawi, are already undertaking their own dissemination activities in their respective institutions. The Chair of the GRP CCCH, Brig. Gen Ramon Santos, has also mentioned his interest in scheduling a *rido* briefing for some ranking officials in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The publication of the study as well as its posting in the website of The Asia Foundation, is also being planned. A number of institutions, such as the CCCH, some congresspersons, Community and Family Services International (CFSI), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) have requested copies of the *rido* research to inform them in their work.

The study's analysis of the success of the CCCH in addressing *rido* has also led to discussions on how to expand the function of the CCCH to explicitly include the monitoring of clan conflicts. Discussions are also underway to implement a similar monitoring mechanism in Sulu, currently a particularly volatile flashpoint. Since the study and the public forums revealed that there are existing initiatives on the ground to address clan violence which can be harnessed, the gathering of individuals and organizations that have these initiatives in another forum will help determine possible concrete actions and coordinated approaches to address *rido*.

Meanwhile, in addressing community resource conflicts, partners like SENTRO will continue to assist peoples' organizations in processing their intra-community issues related to resource conflicts and leadership to enable each community to reach consensus on how to deal with encroachment issues and to dialogue with other stakeholders in the use of resources. They will likewise continue to build the capacities of the communities, especially the youth, and equip them with skills in conflict management and research to expand their options in dealing with problems. The effectiveness of Notre Dame of Jolo College in working with multiple stakeholders to address the marine resource conflicts in Sulu has drawn the interest of other civil society organizations as well as the provincial government. This is an excellent entry point for follow-up activities in conflict management that would help strengthen Muslim civil society in Mindanao. Capacity building activities on conflict mapping, PCIA, mediation and negotiation coaching will help produce more organized civil society organizations in Sulu that can conduct conflict mapping in conflict-prone communities, identify possible strategic interventions and establish support mechanisms to monitor, prevent and address conflicts.