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RE: USAID Cooperative Agreement No. 492-A-00-09-00033-00

"Enhanced Governance through Anti-Corruption Efforts in the Philippines"

FY2010 Annual Report (October 01, 2009 – September 30, 2010)

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

USAID/Philippines awarded the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) funding to implement a 24-month program (October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2011) designed to support anti-corruption reforms in the Philippines. The program has two objectives: to provide legislative support to the Office of the Ombudsman and to strengthen the capacity of journalists to investigate and report local corruption. This annual report addresses the activities under each of these objectives, as described in the workplan approved by USAID in December 2009.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highlights from the Year

ABA ROLI consulted closely with the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) to create a
Technical Working Group (TWG) of high-level officials to draft proposed amendments
to existing laws and the OMB charter to strengthen the law enforcement capacity of anticorruption agencies of the Philippines. The TWG met regularly over six months with
technical assistance from ABA ROLI and its Legislative Research Consultant to prepare
draft legislation for the Ombudsman's consideration and endorsement.

- Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez approved and endorsed the official proposed bills to Congress on 12 July 2010. The bills would provide OMB investigators with the authority to issue Bank Inquiry Orders and Freeze Orders ex parte, without prior notice to targets of investigation. This change will bring the Philippines into compliance with international law and standards by closing a legal loophole that allows parties to siphon illegal monies away from accounts while these accounts are under investigation. The bills will also exempt the OMB from paying bonds and taxes on asset forfeiture cases and empower them to hold uncooperative witnesses in contempt. Finally, the bills address an absolute barrier to successful anti-graft prosecutions set out by a Supreme Court decision that requires investigators to file a case before they can review banking records.
- The OMB presented the proposed bills in Congress on the first day of its new session to ensure that the legislation ranks high in the Congressional priority list for action. The bills garnered sponsors in both houses, Representative Roilo Golez and Senator Miguel Zubiri, and both versions are substantially similar to the draft proposed by the OMB TWG, although important revisions were made to improve the bills. Modifications by the sponsors include reducing the effective dates of freeze orders from six to three months and cutting the provision on the OMB's percentage receipt of forfeited funds. The bills are now being considered by the House Committee on Justice where further amendments are anticipated.
- In collaboration with the OMB, ABA ROLI completed its "Gap Analysis" of Philippine law and the OMB charter to identify deficiencies in the enforcement powers of domestic anti-corruption law and places where current law fails to comply with Philippine obligations under international law. This Gap Analysis will be a critical resource as Congress debates anti-corruption legislative proposals.
- On March 23, the Philippine Public Transparency Reporting Project (PPTRP) and its companion website, *Pera Natin To!* ("It's Our Money!"), were formally launched. Over 70 representatives of 37 public and private-sector organizations attended the launch event. PPTRP aims to improve understanding of and collaboration on issues of public accountability and governance by journalists, activists, civil servants, and private citizens. The website contains resources and timely updates on anti-corruption issues, provides a channel for anti-corruption tips, and serves as a forum for related discussions. Since its launch, the website has received almost 15,000 unique visits during the year and its bulletin boards and companion Facebook page have attracted substantial viewer attention and content. Dozens of local and international corruption fighting agencies and NGOs have contacted PPTRP to discuss how it can serve as a model in other countries.

- PPTRP conducted ten Transparency and Anti-Corruption trainings educating over 200 journalists and local civil society representatives in Visayas and Mindanao on how to investigate and report local corruption issues responsibly and knowledgeably. Topics included: anti-corruption law, investigating public officials, and obtaining documents on public finance and expenditure. Expert lecturers included Philippine anti-corruption lawyers from ABA ROLI staff and veteran journalists and advocates from PPTRP and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.
- PPTRP successfully launched two pilot local transparency groups, the Watchful Advocates for Transparent, Clean and Honest Governance in Kidapawan (WATCH Kidapawan) and the Multi-sectoral Alliance for Transparency and Accountability (MATA-Samar) that aim for closer collaboration between media and civil society. The pilot groups are composed of print and radio journalists, members of civil society organizations, academics, religious leaders, everyday citizens and public servants, working across dividing lines, to monitor the local government's performance and to increase civic participation in transparency issues. As a result, after an incisive inspection of fiscal documents, WATCH Kidapawan exposed and recovered missing pieces of equipment and has prompted the suspension of seven local officials accused of involvement in the disappearance of millions of tax funds. MATA Samar has gathered information on local infrastructure projects and the 2010 Provincial Annual Budget to be published online in the coming months.
- In May, to increase collaboration and information sharing, PPTRP convened over 50 corruption-fighting organizations including the Transparency and Accountability Network, Code NGO, Makati Business Club, the Ateneo School of Government, the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Government, Philippine Human Development Network, and the Association of Schools of Public Administration in the Philippines.
- In its first year, PPTRP created a network of over 500 journalists from different provinces and in Metro Manila working to expose corruption and to highlight positive changes at the local and national levels.

Challenges Encountered During the Year

• Legislative Support to the Office of the Ombudsman

Due to preparations for the national elections and substantive debates that arose during the TWG meetings, there were delays in crafting and finalizing legislation. Consequently, program activities were pushed back a month as the OMB TWG met repeatedly to obtain consensus about key features of the legislation to be submitted for Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez's endorsement. ABA ROLI is sharply skeptical of some of the

TWG's recommendations and sees certain elements as overly broad and vesting investigators with excessive discretion. For example, one of the provisions adopted by the TWG over repeated recommendations to the contrary by ABA ROLI would allow OMB investigators to freeze bank accounts without a court order. Another component ABA ROLI advised against allows the OMB to retain 50% of all assets seized to be used to supplement OMB employee salaries and for the purchase of office equipment. ABA ROLI has strongly urged the TWG to remove this language from the proposed bills. Regulatory mechanisms and alternative uses of monies recovered through OMB efforts can be explored once the bill arrives in Congress.

The strained relationship between President Aquino and Ombudsman Gutierrez, culminating with the President's public disapproval of the Ombudsman and support for her impeachment by Congress, has required ABA ROLI to proceed with utmost care in mustering support for OMB reforms. During informal discussions with ABA ROLI's Legislative Advocacy Consultant (LAC) Malou Tiquia of Publicus Asia Inc. (PAI), President Aquino expressed reservations over any proposed measure that would boost the independent powers of Ombudsman Gutierrez. Unless the President perceives the Ombudsman as an institution distinct from Ombudsman Gutierrez, he may block the passage and enactment of the proposed legislation. Thus, the LAC has to strategically reinforce this distinction and to demonstrate links between proposed OMB reforms and the new administration's anti-corruption platform, which has the potential to gain significant attention from legislators and other stakeholders for the proposed measures.

While ABA ROLI was able to successfully complete its two major component objectives – to facilitate the drafting of the proposed legislation and an advocacy plan to support its passage in Congress – further legislative support to the OMB will be discontinued due to the political nuances of the impeachment case filed against Ombudsman Gutierrez and the resultant adverse atmosphere for the proposed bills. The highly politically charged environment has made ABA ROLI's efforts to create an effective legislative liaison office more difficult. ABA ROLI, through its LAC, is working with the OMB to identify suitable people to serve as legislative liaisons, but given the strained relationship between the Ombudsman and President Aquino, few senior staff members are in a position to liaise effectively with Congress. Additionally, any legislative liaison effort could be perceived by the public or by Congress as an "endorsement" by ABA ROLI or USAID of Ombudsman Gutierrez to combat the impeachment proceedings against her. ABA ROLI and the LAC are exploring "course corrections" to advocate effectively for the legislation that do not carry this political baggage.

As described above, ABA ROLI will work in the next quarter to rectify the overly broad nature of the TWG's proposed legislation and to either establish an effective LLU for the

LAC to train and mentor or propose alternative outputs. The likely impeachment proceedings against Ombudsman Gutierrez will certainly complicate efforts to pass any legislation endorsed by her. On the other hand, impeachment proceedings might provide an opportunity for the legislation to become politically viable as a means for the new government to turn a new leaf for the OMB and showcase it as an important institution distinct from its officeholder.

• Strengthening the Capacity of Journalists to Report on Local Corruption

The massacre of 30 journalists in Maguindanao had serious repercussions in the journalistic community, particularly in Davao. Several of the journalists IWPR have worked with in the past were killed, and there was serious concerns expressed by potential partners about security issues associated with reporting on local corruption.

PPTRP's trainings for media and civil society organizations (CSOs) were pushed back to the late third and fourth quarter because most media outlets were in the midst of preparing for the national election and its aftermath. All trainings were finished by the end of the fourth quarter. There has also been a slight delay in selecting the final two pilot media groups, but preparatory discussions have taken place to fast-track program activities next quarter. Of note, one of the participants of the PPTRP training in Samar, a local government employee, was verbally harassed by the governor for taking part in the training. PPTRP is currently investigating the claim.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED DURING THE YEAR

OBJECTIVE 1: Provide legislative support to the Office of the Ombudsman

Active

- Draft legislative proposals to enhance OMB enforcement mechanisms.
- Comprehensive gap analysis of the legal environment pertaining to laws on bank secrecy, asset forfeiture, and the OMB charter
- Develop advocacy plan to guide proposed legislation through Congress.
- OMB presents bills to Congress
- Monitoring progress of proposed legislation in Congress.
- Supporting consultants providing technical assistance during the legislative process.

Prospective

 Consult anti-corruption stakeholders and establish coalitions to support OMB legislative reform efforts

ABA ROLI engaged Professor Gilbert Sembrano of the Ateneo de Manila School of Law as its Legal Research Consultant (LRC) on November 1, 2009 to assist the OMB on legal research and legislative drafting. In December 2009, the OMB issued an order creating a

TWG responsible for preparing and implementing the work plan. The TWG is co-chaired by Deputy Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni and Assistant Ombudsman Evelyn Baliton and composed of members from different OMB bureaus, including the Office of the Deputy Special Prosecutor, the Office of Legal Affairs, the Fact-Finding Investigation Bureau, the Preliminary Investigation and Administrative Adjudication Bureau, and the Field Investigation Office.



Figure 1 Members of the OMB TWG discuss deficiencies in existing laws citing the first-hand experience of investigators and prosecutors in the field.

ABA ROLI worked closely with the OMB TWG to identify the deficiencies in existing laws that both hinder prosecutions against corrupt government officials and violate Philippine commitments under the UN Convention Against Corruption. These challenges

also include the recent limitations on the OMB's investigative powers imposed by the Supreme Court in recent rulings. To expedite the discussions and legislative drafting, TWG members were divided into three subgroups to identify and discuss first-hand accounts from investigative and prosecutorial OMB officials, and a review of existing laws and Supreme Court decisions impacting their office was conducted. After convening regularly for several months with the assistance of the LRC, the TWG had worked through most of its proposed corrective amendments on the identified legislative agenda on asset forfeiture, bank secrecy and OMB charter.

On May 27, 2010, ABA ROLI contracted Malou Tiquia from *Publicus Asia, Inc.*¹ (PAI), a well known lobbying and political management firm in the Philippines, as the Legislative Advocacy Consultant (LAC) to assist OMB in pushing the passage of the proposed bills in Congress. PAI drafted an outline of a legislative advocacy plan that cast OMB as the lead agency of the proposed reforms and set up a permanent liaison office to communicate with and lobby for OMB's interests in Congress even after the program has concluded. As part of its scope of work, PAI plans a strategic planning and training session to educate the liaison unit on bill tracking and political mapping, advocacy and strategy, liaising with Congress, and coalition-building.

To set the advocacy plan in motion, ABA ROLI quickly met with Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez and representatives from USAID to emphasize the urgency of constituting a

¹ http://www.publicusasia.com/

legislative liaison unit within OMB. As a result, Office Order No.187 (*see Annex 1*) was released creating the OMB Legislative Liaison Team. Members of the unit include Deputy Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni as Chairman and Deputy Special Prosecutor Jesus Micael as Vice-Chair, other members include Assistant Ombudsmen, directors, prosecutors and Graft Investigator and Prosecution Officers.



Figure 2 Assistant Ombudsman Virginia Santiago (left) from the Visayas regional office and Director Elvira Chua of the Prosecution and Monitoring Bureau critique and refine proposed legislative drafts of the OMB reforms.

In June, a three day write-shop honed the proposed bills and discussed advocacy strategy. Among the salient amendments identified are authority to access bank accounts and freeze assets, exemption from paying bond and payment of taxes

on asset forfeiture cases and contempt powers for the OMB to aid its process of requiring compulsory testimony by witnesses. During the workshop, the LAC oriented the technical working group on the legislative process and advocacy and mapped the political affiliations of the 15th Congress. The LAC also familiarized participants on the status of similar measures proposed during the previous Congress and potential political debates that may arise with the current set of bills. The congressmen who sponsored the previous bills (Roilo Golez, Joseph Emilio Abaya, Francis Escudero, and Panfilo Lacson) are considered likely to support the OMB proposals.

At the end of the write-shop, disagreements over the appropriate language to be used on the final provisions prevented consensus. Also, some members wanted the legislation to address other internal OMB matters, such as salaries, retirement plans, and protections from professional complaints. Consequently, after two additional meetings, the TWG settled the issues and made the following agreements on proposed amendments:

- o Providing OMB investigators the authority to issue Bank Inquiry Orders *ex parte*, without notifying the subject of the investigation.
- O Allowing freeze orders on bank accounts to be promulgated *ex parte* and *motu proprio* (without need for the complainant to make a legal motion), or upon motion by the complainant, valid for up to six months. (Note that ABA ROLI strongly recommended to the TWG that the proposed bills require a judicial order for *ex parte* applications by OMB lawyers. While the TWG appears reluctant to change their draft, legislators are likely to resolve this issue through amendments.)
- Allowing the OMB to hold uncooperative witnesses in contempt for failing to appear or cooperate during preliminary investigations.

- o Exemption for the OMB from paying bonds and taxes on asset forfeiture cases.
- o Allowing the OMB to retain a fifty percent share of forfeited assets to be used for salary supplements of OMB employees and for the purchase of equipment for subsequent investigations (This is another point of disagreement by ABA ROLI, which suggests that all, or nearly all, funds collected by the OMB be returned to the national Treasury.)

On June 11, 2010, ABA ROLI contracted Atty. Racquel Dimalanta to provide a gap analysis using empirical data from actual OMB cases to strengthen the case for reform and inform debate over proposed amendments. The gap analysis covers the following:

- 1. A study of the OMB's operative legal structure, specifically in relation to asset forfeiture, and the fitness of proposed amendments to address such gaps;
- 2. Salient "big fish" cases in the Sandiganbayan and the OMB that demonstrate how deficiencies in the OMB's legal framework hinder the successful recovery of unlawfully acquired assets;
- 3. Underutilized mechanisms currently available to OMB investigators and prosecutors;
- 4. Relevant international models on asset forfeiture;
- 5. Further recommendations on alternative amendments to R.A. Nos. 6770 (*The Ombudsman Act of 1989*) and 1379 (*the Forfeiture Law*) for future consideration.



Figure 3 High-level OMB officials discuss how the proposed amendments will strengthen the ability of the Ombudsman to recover some of the public funds lost to corruption every year.

As stated in ABA ROLI's project proposal, the ultimate objective of the proposed legislative reform measures is to strengthen OMB's powers at the *incipient stage of investigation*, so that ill-gotten assets are not only properly and promptly *identified* but also *preserved* until accused are judged by a

court of law. The analysis conducted by Atty. Dimalanta reinforced the observations of many Filipino legal observers that convictions, if obtained, take place many years after the onset of investigations, by which time the assets in question have disappeared, rendering their seizure impossible. The study revealed that, out of a nominal sample of cases made available, the state effectively "lost" \$\mathbb{P}4,083,323,318\$ (\$97,221,983) worth of assets due to investigators' inability to issue Freeze Orders. A more complete analysis reviewing earlier closed cases might reveal this problem to have even greater consequences.

Summary findings of the Legal Gap Analysis Report

The gap analysis examined Supreme Court decisions and specific "big-fish" cases in the Sandiganbayan and the OMB to reveal how deficiencies in the OMB's current legal and operational framework hinder the successful state recovery of unlawfully acquired assets. The analysis found several cases dismissed by the Sandiganbayan for failure by the Ombudsman to substantiate claims of unlawfully acquired properties against a corrupt government employee. In most cases, judgments were rendered fruitless because of the length of time separating the commencement of investigation from final adjudication in asset forfeiture cases (or criminal cases in which the civil case is implicitly instituted). In the intervening years, the assets subject to the proceedings can be easily siphoned away, rendering them unrecoverable.

Bank Inquiry Power

In the landmark case of *Marquez vs. Ombudsman* (2001), the Supreme Court determined that the OMB's power to inquire into bank accounts is limited by onerous conditions: a case must be pending before the Court, the account must be clearly identified, and the account holder must be notified and present during inspection. These conditions, especially the notice to account-holders of on-going investigation, have neutered the OMB's power to inquire into bank accounts. The gap analysis examined three illustrative cases of closed and terminated complaints dismissed during the investigative stage by the OMB for lack of authority to verify bank accounts found these investigations, totaling ₱10,230,277 (\$243,578), could not proceed primarily because the amount in question could not be substantiated through bank records.

Asset Preservation Power

Under the present legal structure, the "Ombudsman Charter" (R.A. No. 6770) provides that the accused must be notified before the OMB may apply for a writ of preliminary attachment. By the time the case is filed, however, the accused, who has been given notice as early as the preliminary investigation stage, is likely to dissipate any asset the OMB hoped to secure through a writ of preliminary attachment. A forfeiture case involving the family of General Carlos Garcia provides a clear example. While the value of the assets involved was originally pegged at ₱202,005,908 (\$4,809,664), ₱135,780,461 (\$3,232,868) of this total had already dissipated (pending litigation) through account withdrawals and fund remittances. Thus, a Freeze Order is substantially undermined if it must be preceded by a Bank Inquiry Order that gives notice to account holders and enables the liquidation of the account before a Freeze Order could be issued *ex parte*.

Another prominent example of this problem is the plunder case against former President Joseph Estrada, wherein the Court found a civil liability of ₱735 Million (\$17.5 Million) with interest and income earned. Out of this amount, only ₱317 Million (7.5 Million) has been returned to the state. Had the OMB had been able to issue Bank Inquiries and Freeze Orders at the onset, the assets of President Estrada could have been fully preserved and the state would have recovered the remaining ₱418 Million (\$9.9 Million).

The proposed reform measures mainly pertain to the powers of the OMB to inquire into bank accounts and to issue "freeze orders" or "asset preservation orders." Appended in the list of attachments as *Annex 2* is a summary matrix of the gaps and their corresponding proposed amendments. *Annex 3* is the full text of the "Legal Gap Analysis Report For The Proposed Amendatory Bills To Republic Act Nos. 6770 And 1379."

On June 16, the scheduled training needs assessment for the Legislative Liaison Unit (LLU) was put on hold because the OMB appointed high-level officials to the unit, rather than the dedicated and specialized staff required to represent OMB in legislative hearings, coordinate with stakeholders, provide research and monitor legislative affairs. *Table 1* shows the scope of work of the legislative liaison unit and the corresponding job specifications. ABA ROLI, through its LAC, is working with the OMB to identify suitable candidates for the LLU, but the strained relationship between the Ombudsman and President Aquino has made senior staff members reluctant to liaise with Congress.

Table 1. OMB Legislative Liaison Team

Position	Job Description	Specifications
Head	Represents the OMB in legislative hearings	Lawyer with sharp negotiation skills,
	and coordinates with supporters and allies	and five years service at the OMB
of the OMB in pushing for the legislative co		covering fact-finding and prosecution
	measures.	assignments with experience of
		successful prosecution.
Deputy	Performs Head's functions and	The same as that of the Head's, but with
	responsibilities in the Head's absence.	a minimum of 3 years service.
Senior	Liaises with stakeholders, attends hearings,	Law student with relevant knowledge,
Liaison	monitors debates and attends to the relevant	advanced interpersonal skills, and
Officer	needs of legislators.	strategic thinking.
Junior	Acts as researcher and writer. Provides	Communications graduate, can write
Liaison	periodic statements to media and conducts	and execute the communication plan,
Officer	both internal and external communications.	has advance presentation skills,
Bill	Is responsible for maintaining legislative	Has knowledge of database and has
Monitoring	database	advance people's skills.

The proposed bills were further polished and finalized to include other salient findings of the gap analysis with all the supporting materials completed by the TWG with the assistance of the LAC. Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez approved and endorsed the official bills in Congress through the Senate President, Speaker of the House, Secretaries of both Lower House and Senate.

In July 2010, the bills were timely filed for the 15th Congress's first session to ensure that they are given priority. The bills, House Bill No. 846-847 and Senate No. 1447-1448 (attached as *Annex 4*), garnered the respective sponsorship of Representative Roilo Golez and Senator Miguel Zubiri. Although both congressmen adopted most of the provisions of

the bills, some revisions were made to reduce the freeze order from six to three months and delete the provision on OMB percentage share of forfeited funds. ABA ROLI expects additional amendments to the proposed laws to occur as the legislative process continues.

Table 2. Status of the Bills as of Sep 2010

House Bill Nos. 846 and 847		Senate Bill Nos. 1447 and 1448		
Filed in the House of Representative by	6-Jul-10	Filed in the Senate by	13-Jul-10	
Representative Golez		Senator Miguel Zubiri		
First Reading and referred to the	28-Jul-10	First Reading and referred to	1-Sep-10	
Committee on Justice headed by		the Committee on Justice		
Representative Neil Tupas Jr., 5th District		headed by Senator Francis		
of Iloilo		Escudero		
Note that the Committee on Justice is presently		To speed up the committee hearings, a TWG		
focused on impeachment complaints filed against the		will be convened to approve the results.		
Ombudsman, postponing consideration of other				
pending measures.				

A political mapping of the 15th Congress identified that although the Liberal Party (LP) will play a very important role in pushing for the two bills, bipartisan support is essential to secure a majority in both chambers. Rep. Golez was identified as an optimal legislator to push the bills forward, since he comes from the LP and is a senior member. In the Senate, which has only four LP members, Sen. Zubiri was recommended because he is aligned with the Senate President, a consensus-builder who can defend the measures on the floor and push his priorities to the top of the agenda.

Early in the next fiscal year, the LAC will coordinate with Mr. Bernie Sayo, head of the House Presidential Legislative Liaison Office, to increase the possibility of the bills' inclusion in President Aquino's Legislative Agenda.

Foreseeable Opportunities and Concerns for Next Year

ABA ROLI is exploring with the OMB TWG the possibility of establishing a Public Information Office (PIO) within OMB rather than an LLU. Discussions have been made to potentially amend PAI's scope of work, to provide public and media relations skillstraining to the OMB. If agreed to by the OMB, the PIO, similar to that of the Supreme Court, will also improve the OMB's ability to interface with other government. The PIO will have the capacity to monitor the progress of bills of import to the OMB and can help in some ways to advocate for their passage or advocate against their passage if it would undermine anti-corruption efforts. In the event the OMB chooses a different direction in their legislative efforts, ABA ROLI will explore alternatives or simply wind down its technical assistance.

The political and credibility issues against the Ombudsman have preoccupied the respective Committees on Justice in Congress, forestalling progress on OMB reforms. ABA ROLI is continuously monitoring these developments. In the meantime, ABA ROLI plans to conduct a roundtable discussion with government agencies, civil society and business groups to present the findings of the legal gap analysis and expand sector-wide support for the proposed bills. ABA ROLI is currently coordinating with USAID's Integrity Project for possible collaboration on this matter.

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen the capacity of journalists to investigate and report local corruption

Active

- Launch Philippines Public Transparency Reporting Project (PPTRP) website Pera Natin 'To
- Conduct Information Education Communications campaign.
- Publicize "Highlight a Change section on PPTRP website
- Train local media practitioners on investigative journalism
- Mobilize joint media and public working groups to monitor and report on local fiscal accountability and transparency
- Hold roundtable discussions and networking events with high-level officials and media members to strengthen anti-corruption reporting
- Conduct public outreach to encourage creation of anti-corruption networks composed of media and civil society groups
- Publish commissioned reports on corruption issues

Prospective

- Create and publish annual report cards on public perception
- Create and publish Special Budget Watch section on PPTRP website
- Develop, publish and distribute PPTRP handbook

• Launch PPTRP website *Pera Natin 'To*

After ABA ROLI signed a sub-grant agreement with International War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) on November 9, 2009, IWPR quickly initiated program activities starting with the design, development, and registration of PPTRP's "*Pera Natin 'To!*" website. The site ensures an interactive and user-friendly forum for public citizens and professional journalists to productively discuss issues surrounding the investigation and reporting of corruption, including safety and security.

In December, IWPR re-established its partnerships with local organizations including the Center for Community Journalism and Development (CCJD), National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP) and Mindanao News and discussed project goals, objectives, specific components, roles and responsibilities, and the current political and economic situation for Mindanao journalists. Several of the journalists IWPR worked with in the past were killed in the November 2009 Maguindanao massacre, and potential partners expressed

legitimate concerns about security issues. Because of the consequent difficulty in coordination with potential stakeholders in Mindanao and the involvement of the IWPR project staff and partners in the campaign to achieve justice for victims of the massacre, IWPR postponed for a few months the implementation of trainings and establishment of pilot media groups.

During this delay, the project and its partners continued to finalize the plans for the two surveys on civic expectation and the role of the media in reporting corruption and issues of transparency and initiated the first batch of commissioned reports by journalists, former bureaucrats, and civil society organizations on public budgets, procurement, the role of media, checks and balances, and models for transparency.

On March 23, PPTRP was formally launched along with its website, *Pera Natin To!* ("It's Our Money!") viewable at www.transparencyreporting.net. Attended by over 70 representatives of 37 public and private sector organizations, this anti-corruption reporting project aims to improve understanding of and collaboration on issues of public accountability and governance by journalists, activists, civil servants, and private citizens.



Figure 4 Solita Collas-Monsod, an economist and broadcaster, says "Pera Natin To!" will help widen public participation in the fight against corruption.

(PPTRP changed the proposed name from Iyong Pera to Pera Natin To! to better represent its model of public engagement. The site name was rented for an initial period of five years and will remain operational after the project has concluded). PPTRP moved the website host from the

Philippines to the U.S. to increase security and reliability.

A roundtable discussion entitled "Building and Not Waiting for Public Transparency and Accountability: The Benefits of Working Together and Forcing Change" complemented the launch. Panelists included executives from CCJD, the Commission on Audit, the Transparency and Accountability Network, and the *Ehem!*, an anti-corruption project. During the discussion, CCJD Executive Director Victor Redmond Batario previewed results of PPTRP's Media and Public Accountability baseline survey to measure citizen views of the media's role in combating corruption.

Local and foreign media have carried stories about the project and the website since the launch, such as Philippine Daily Inquirer, Business World, GMA news, Korea Herald, Asia News network, and Philippine and Australian radio programs and blogs. The launch was

also attended by representatives from the diplomatic corps, local and international media, civil society, and government offices such as the Commission on Audit and OMB.

In June, the complete results of the baseline study on the public's expectation of the media and its role in reporting corruption was released and published online.² It determined present levels of knowledge, skills, attitudes and practices of corruption reporting by media as reported to PPTRP by different groups in Mindanao and the Visayas. The baseline also looks at how effectively the media is perceived to be collaborating with civil society. Sixty respondents were drawn from the media, civil society organizations, government agencies, and the general public. The study utilized focus group discussions and a questionnaire sent out to respondents in advance. PPTRP, through the CCJD, met with groups in Catbalogan, Samar and North Cotabato and will conduct follow-up sessions in 2011. Below are the summary findings of the study:

Table 3. Findings of Media and Public Transparency and Accountability Surveys

Questions	Summary of Findings		
Definition of corruption	Corruption is perceived as a misuse or abuse of public funds for personal gain. The prevalence of corruption at all levels of government was discussed as well as private-sector corruption including "envelopmental journalism," an abuse of journalistic ethics.		
How corruption is being addressed	Participants from Northern Samar and North Cotabato shared corruption stories from their respective regions of missing public funds and disbursements, land title issues, and daily collections. Groups have mobilized, public campaigns and rallies organized and administrative actions filed to address these issues. Responses from local government, media, CSOs and the public indicate varying degrees of success. However, the sessions revealed that to date only administrative cases have been filed against erring officials in both provinces. In Northern Samar, the ISOG Han Samar Movement, a group of concerned individuals from NGOs, church, business and media groups, are more active than the media in leading anti-corruption efforts. While in North Cotabato, radio has been cited as an effective medium in reporting corruption and galvanizing citizen action alongside CSOs in providing information to the media.		
Present roles of media and other sectors in addressing this issue	In both provinces, respondents said the media's role is to inform the public, expose corruption issues, and act as a "watchdog". Local governments are perceived as opaque in their transactions despite efforts to address reported corruption issues. CSOs and citizens are seen as vanguards of public interest or watchdogs of government performance, as demonstrated by the ISOG Han Samar and KALAMPAG.		
Most effective medium in reporting corruption	Based on the feedback from respondents, the most effective medium in reporting corruption is radio, followed by television because of their reach. While remote provinces like Sultan Kuldarat use print as a primary medium, publications are limited by the costs of production and distribution. In Samar, online news portals (e.g. www.samarnews.com) have gained an audience, especially from foreign viewers. CSOs in North Cotabato have stated using online media as an effective reporting tool.		

² http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=85:media-and-public-transparency-and-accountability-survey&catid=54

Questions	Summary of Findings		
Difficulties / problems of media in covering corruption	The most common problems encountered by the media are the lack of access to officials, few resources to gather information and knowledge on anti-corruption laws, and security threats. Respondents said that the strength of the media in both provinces is strong public support. Areas for improvement include more balanced and accurate reporting, and increased community involvement in data-gathering and follow-up.		
Training needs assessment	The training needs assessment identified topics such as public financing, procurement laws, anti-corruption laws, good governance, journalistic ethics, and investigative reporting project management with a focus on monitoring and coalition building skills.		
Effect of corruption stories on you/on the public	Corruption stories affect audiences in both positive and negative ways depending on the quality and presentation of the news. Some react by asking more information, correcting inaccurate reports, and prompting proactive and united action. Others react negatively and feel angry and disappointed and feel a loss of trust and confidence in their government. CSO-citizens are more hopeful, realizing more the need to participate, act, unite and remain vigilant despite the negative emotions felt.		
Mechanisms to monitor and report compliance with corruption laws by public officials	In both Cotabato and Samar, formal mechanisms are in place to monitor and report compliance of public officials on anti-corruption laws, through such groups as ISOG Han Samar, Samar Island for Peace and Development, Samar Partnership for Peace and Development and Corruption Prevention Unit in Samar. In Cotabato, available mechanisms include Inter-sectoral Convergence for Peace Truth and Service, Kutabateno Alang sa Maayong Panggobyerno, Union of People's Lawyers for Mindanao chapter, White Ribbon Movement, Bantay-Bigas and Education First Referendum Later Movement. Effective but limited informal mechanisms exist through radio, text-brigade / text reaction, CSOs and citizen media.		
Cross-sectoral awareness raising	Common to the three sector-respondents is the need to increase awareness or conduct massive information and advocacy campaigns which can be done together with CSOs and other sectors.		

The results of the survey suggest that civil society and local governments are willing to organize to enhance local anti-corruption efforts and coordinate goals and strategies. Besides highlighting opportunities for collaboration and engagement, the results show the need for building corruption reporting skills of the media and civil society and addressing security and safety issues.

• Conduct Information Education Communications (IEC) campaign

During the year, website features were developed and populated with technical information, data and statistics to increase public involvement and to facilitate ease in investigating and reporting instances of alleged corruption. The project designed the website with an eye to a broad ranged audience, using lively colors, boxes, imagery, and Filipino alongside English language sections. Since its launch on March 23, 2010, the website had received more than 25,000 visits³ by approximately 15,000 unique visitors⁴.

³A "visit" represents every time a person views the website, whether for one minute or for several hours.

⁴ A "unique visitor," for purposes of this report, indicates an individual user with a unique IP address visiting and viewing the website, either once or many times during the quarter.

Over the course of the year, visitors have viewed over 121,000 pages, indicating that viewers are moving beyond the front page to explore its features. The trend in visitors to the website is increasing as the site gets more attention from the public and from NGOs and other anti-corruption stakeholders through its dynamic features and socially relevant topics and reports. Attached as *Annex 7* is a current screen shot of the website. The features include feedback and reporting mechanisms along with IEC materials

Table 4. Feedback and Reporting Mechanisms of Website

Table 4. Feedback and Reporting Mechanisms of Website				
Item Description Developments and highlights for FY 2010				
Report it Here ⁵				
A confidential e-mail hotline for public reports on corruption or waste. Besides "Report it Here", PPTRP receives public submissions through: 1. comments to posted stories 2. comments in the Facebook pages 3. "walk-in" reports Each credible report is logged and	During the year, a total of 21 reports were received and investigated by PPTRP's network of journalists. Due to insufficient evidence, the reports have not been substantiated. As feedback has increased, PPTRP is considering forming a team of journalists solely responsible for verifying and investigating reports. Next quarter, a policy on how to preserve source confidentiality and security will be finalized and disseminated to all journalists. Examples of tips investigated include delayed or abandoned public			
investigated by PPTRP through interviews, e-mail exchanges and document tracking. Sources will not be disclosed without permission.	construction projects, Congressmen driving expensive cars, tax funds going to political campaigns, and public officials charging extra fees for birth certificates and other public documents.			
Talakayan ⁶ PPTRP posts initial topics and issues in the discussion board including announcements of new stories, activities, and commentaries.	Several discussion topics have generated considerable interest, including "Combating Corruption in the Philippines" (1151 views) and "PPTRP as the Philippines's Future" (1136 views). Note that PPTRPs Facebook account has become a popular tool for public feedback. Other popular topics have included photos of government projects accompanied by signage carrying politicians' names and photos, anti-corruption priorities for the Aquino Administration, and corruption in Samar under the reign of the Tan family.			
Facebook ⁷ PPTRP has used its two Facebook pages to informally network with journalists and citizens who may not belong to established organizations.	Since its April creation, membership has grew 693 by the end of FY 2010. Journalists, media and NGO workers, expatriates and local citizens post comments on topics posted daily by PPTRP. Besides information dissemination, the two Facebook accounts have facilitated the creation of local chapters to look into procurement issues. Two concerned citizens group (Bayan Natin Ituwid in Masinloc, Zambales and NEGRENSOS 4 Noynoy Movement in Negros Occidental) have reached out to share information and request inclusion in PPTRP trainings.			

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⁵http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_aicontactsafe&view=message&layout=message&pf=3&Itemid=58

⁶ http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_agora&Itemid=69

⁷ http://www.facebook.com/pages/Philippine-Public-Transparency-Reporting-Project-Pera-Natin-To/393755143454

Blogs ⁸ Individual blogs link to PPTRP content to raise awareness and disseminate information more broadly.	A total of 13 blogs of individuals have been published discussing articles and reports posted on the website, online campaigns and other features.		
Rate this Site ⁹ A feature that surveys customer feedback of the website using Likert.	As of September 2010, 160 readers/visitors have rated the site. 138 of them (86.3 percent) rated it as "very useful", the highest rating. Thirteen (8.1 percent) said it "needs improvement"; 5 (3.1 percent) rated it as "very poor"; and 4 (2.5 percent) rated it as "average".		
Highlight a Change 10 This section allows the public to inform PPTRP of reforms and positive changes in their local districts.	While there are no reports currently submitted in this system, PPTRP has received reports on positive changes in local communities through direct emails, PPTRP Facebook comments, and story ideas. Highlights this year include the results of WATCH Kidapawan's effort to monitor and engage with local governments and related agencies for further transparency and accountability.		

Table 5. IEC Materials of Website and Other Online Efforts

Table 3. IEC Materials of Website and Other Online Efforts			
Item Description	Developments and highlights for FY 2010		
Project News ¹¹ Articles on project activities and events including trainings, presentations, and roundtables.	The project has conducted ten trainings, two online campaigns, two closed-door roundtable discussions with CSOs, and established local transparency groups in Kidapawan and Samar.		
Background Papers / Reports ¹² Background papers designed to build engagement, promote change, and improve transparency and accountability for the media and the public at large to understand where and how the Philippine Government raises funds, how it is allocated and spent. Reports cover relevant issues on public budgets, procurement, the role of media in addressing corruption, checks and balances, and transparency models.	PPTRP has commissioned 25 background reports viewable on the website, covering issues relating to the SALN, budget allocation and spending, public transparency laws and responsibilities, the procurement process, best practices, local and national budget monitoring, collaborative models for transparency, access to public records, social costs of corruption, and insights on the new presidency that promises reforms in fighting corruption. In July, the project discussed key issues and challenges facing the new Aquino Administration including a transparency drive, calamity funds, the Food for School Program, and Bureau of Internal Revenue reforms. The commissioned reports now serve as a primary source of analysis and contacts used by the top media groups in the country. During the year, GMA-7 picked up PPTRP's report on the alleged excesses and corrupt practices of government owned and controlled corporations while the <i>Philippine Star</i> covered the report on charges against the national president of the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation.		

⁸http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=56:blogs&layo ut=blog&Itemid=98

http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_poll&id=15:rate-us http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_aicontactsafe&view=message&layout=me ssage&pf=1&Itemid=57

11 http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=5

^{4&}amp;Itemid=97

http://www.transparencyreporting.net/

Corruption Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)¹³

An extensive Question and Answer guide to build awareness about corruption

This section makes public finance accessible, following an intuitive, conversational, and easily grasped format.

Statements, Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) Online Campaign¹⁴

PPTRP campaign to access and publish all SALNs of public officials.

Agencies contacted for information on the policies, processes and copies of the SALNs include the OMB, Civil Service Commission, Court Administrator and Clerk of Court of the Supreme Court, Secretary General of the Philippine House of Representatives, Malacañang Records Division and Secretary of the Senate of the Philippines. Representatives of these agencies have generally responded favorably. In two weeks, over 150 people joined the campaign to publish SALNs.

International Best Practice: The Hong Kong experience¹⁵

A case study of Hong Kong's success in fighting corruption.

This case study provides an important comparative example of how government corruption can be successfully confronted, which several respondents have cited as inspirational.

Learning Zone¹⁶

A resource that provides basic understanding of public finance terms, anti-corruption laws and public expenditures.

Learning Zone includes the following topics:

- 1. Building Public Finance Literacy: An A to Z of Basic Public Finance
- 2. Key Laws, Decrees and Procedures Relating to Anti-Corruption
- 3. Public Expenditure: Policies, Processes and Institutions

List of Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) breaking the law¹⁷

Summary findings based on a Commission on Audit report.

This report was the basis of GMATV's notebook report on GOCCs which featured interviews by PPTRP and others. This report was published on the website before the public launch and predated all media coverage around GOCCs.

Anti-Personalization of Public Projects¹⁸

Online petition against the widespread practice of politicians promoting themselves by putting their names and faces on publicly-funded projects.

PPTRPs online petition garnered over 100 signatures. On August 5, Senator Francis Escudero sponsored and passed Senate Bill 2187 to ban this practice. In a letter to PPTRP, Mr. Escudero's office noted the shared common goal to improve accountability of local government officials. He further committed to update the project on the status of the bill, which is currently pending first reading.

http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=59:confused-about-corruption&catid=35

¹⁴ http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_petitions&view=petition&id=49&Itemid=75

http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=48

¹⁶http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=4 6&Itemid=73

http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57%3Awhat-government-owned-and-controlled-corporations-have-been-found-breaking-the-law-on-expenses-&catid=35&Itemid=73

| http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=62%3Apolitician

¹⁸http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=62%3Apoliticians-signages&catid=35&Itemid=73

Corruption Clock Counter 19 This website counter shows the toll of graft and corruption in the year to date.	While accurate data on amounts lost to corruption is impossible to collect with specificity, the counter is based on expert estimates – sources frequently quoted by Filipino leaders such as Justice Secretary Leila de Lima and Senator Manny Villar. A story about what the money lost could have provided in terms of public services was initially shared on Facebook.
Philippine Political and Legislative Structure ²⁰ A comprehensive review of policymaking at local and national levels by Milagros Santos-Ong, Director of Library Services for the Supreme Court, published in June 2009.	 The resource material provides information on the following: Political Structure Government Structure - Executive Branch, Legislative Department, Judicial System, Constitutional Commissions, Local Governments, Other Government Agencies Legal System - Nature of the System, Sources of Law Legal Research - Research of Statute Law, Research of Case Law Legal Profession - Law Schools, Bar Associations Philippine Legal Information Resources and Citations
PPTRP guide to media safety ²¹ Safety and security guide for journalists	Staying Safe and Keeping Alive: The PPTRP Guide. Tips include: 1. Risk assessment and basic security awareness strategy 2. Comprehensive research on political, economic and social issues 3. Knowledge of emergency services and civil society groups 4. Adequate preparations before going into the field 5. Knowledge on basic surveillance 6. Safety in driving and vehicles 7. Survive attack, ambush, and capture
Primer on libel ²² The section discusses the basic elements of libel jurisprudence.	This resource material, including explanations and commentaries from law professors, promotes awareness to the public on the importance of credible reports and the legal sanctions that can be imposed if reporting is used to be mirch an individual without basis.
Tips for Whistleblowers ²³ Links to international best practice tips for whistleblowers	Successful tips on reporting fraud and waste in government based on the Whistleblower laws of the state of Illinois.
Link to other relevant organizations ²⁴ Links to share know-how and promote	Several local organizations have informed PPTRP of their current activities such as investigation of financial status of their municipal government and "bantay gobierno" monitoring of local and national projects

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linkages and learning

¹⁹ http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=73:corruption-

clock&catid=35&Itemid=80

http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/philippines1.htm

http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=66

http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com content&view=article&id=68:allegations-

are-not-facts&catid=46&Itemid=73

http://www2.illinois.gov/whistleblower/Pages/default.aspx
http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=95:what-othergroups-and-organisaions-are-doing-on-anti-corruption-transparency-and-accountability&catid=25

• Train local media practitioners on investigative journalism

IWPR selected ten training areas and four pilot cities, targeting areas in Mindanao and the Visayas with clear issues and concerns with public corruption and transparency as well as active and reliable civil society and media communities: Catbalogan, Kidapawan, Cagayan de Oro, Dipolog, Bohol, Legazpi, Cotabato, Pampanga, Surigao and Davao. PPTRP aims to build the capacity of local media, civil society groups and government units in their anti-corruption efforts. A copy of the training module and handouts are attached as *Annex 8*.



Figure 5 Journalists, church-based and civil society groups organize to identify corruption issues in their locality and propose plans to investigate and report on how their local government manages, spends and account for public funds.

From June to September, PPTRP completed its first round of basic training on Transparency and Anti-Corruption Reporting in nine selected provinces in Visayas and Mindanao. Through these

trainings, the NUJP, a PPTRP local partner, has encouraged nearly 200 local journalists and civil society leaders to report corruption cases and promote good governance. Participants consisted of 136 representatives from the media and 61 from civil society organizations, religious groups, academe and concerned citizens groups.

Rowena Paraan, director of the NUJP Education and Training Commission, said journalists, civil society, and ordinary citizens have a role in promoting and demanding good governance and public transparency. She discussed tools and techniques – such as life-style checks – that help citizens keep a close eye on government officials, adding: "Corruption is so pervasive now; everybody is always expecting to be paid for everything we do. Setting correct values are key, that is why the role of the youth is also important."



Figure 6 ABA ROLI program manager Tina Manalang shares her experience in anti-corruption theory, laws, and existing law enforcement mechanisms in the Philippines.

The participants were trained on effectively investigating and reporting corruption, anti-corruption laws, and other factors that affect corruption and its impact on society. ABA ROLI's anti-corruption program manager Atty. Tina Manalang provided a lecture on

corruption law and common forms of corruption in the Philippines. PPTRP and NUJP

resource speakers discussed how the public can use the SALNs of public officials to uncover possible corrupt activities of government agents. The participants from media and civil society organizations discussed how to establish working relationships, share information, and join efforts to legally acquire public documents.

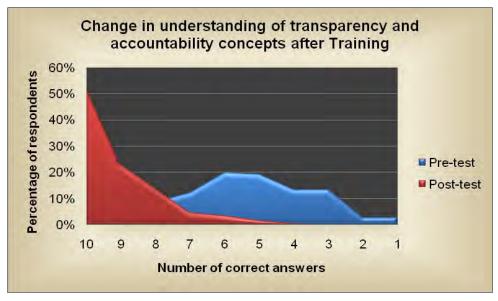
QUOTES

Christine Casurao, a public information officer with the Samar provincial government and a member of the Alliance of Concerned Employees of Samar, said that the training has provided relevant information. "I will apply [the knowledge] in watching for government transactions and [in] checking if they are violating these anti-corruption laws," she said.

Gina Ragudo, a Samarnews.com and Samar Media Productions reporter, said the training was helpful and interesting, stating that she specifically enjoyed learning about "investigating corruption cases and [about] the provisions of the *Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act*."

At the end of the training, participants submitted story proposals for community advocacy and investigative journalism. In the future, the project will support the joint initiatives of local media, civil society and citizens to monitor and report on transparency issues surrounding budgeting, procurement, project development, and government transactions.

At the beginning of the training, participants were given a pre-training survey in order to determine their level of understanding on transparency and accountability concepts such as "lifestyle check", "plunder", and "conflict of interest." Pre-test results show that out of the 172 participant respondents composed of media practitioners, CSO workers and other sectors, only 49 or 28% scored the passing rate of 70%. However, post-training results show that out of 165 participant respondents, 94% passed the percent rate with 52% scoring a perfect 10-point score and 23% got a 9-point score. Results of the pre and post-training tests show a marked increase in participants' understanding of corruption concepts from a weighted score of 5.4 to 9.0, or 90%, as the chart below demonstrates.



• Mobilize joint media and public working groups to monitor and report on local fiscal accountability and transparency

PPTRP successfully launched two pilot local transparency groups, the Watchful Advocates for Transparent, Clean and Honest Governance in Kidapawan (WATCH Kidapawan) and the Multi-sectoral Alliance for Transparency and Accountability (MATA-Samar) that aim for closer collaboration between media and the civil society.



Figure 7 Media and CSO leaders in Kidapawan, formally organized for the first time, discuss how citizens could ask their leaders for more transparency in public finance.

The pilot groups are composed of print and radio journalists, members of civil society organizations, academics, religious leaders, everyday citizens and public servants. They work across dividing lines, encompassing members of competing media groups, rival political parties, and diverse political and ethnic affiliations, to

monitor the local government's performance and increase civic participation in transparency issues. The World Bank has commended PPTRP for effectively mobilizing independent anti-corruption groups and the public to initiate their own governance projects for the first time.

Table 6. Status of activities as of FY 2010

WATCH Kidapawan	MATA-Samar
WATCH Kidapawan launched on July 5 with the	MATA-Samar launched in September with the
vision to push for greater public access to	vision to assess global poverty and good
information and to use targeted activism to	governance.
expose and address corruption.	
After securing the public release of key fiscal	In September 2010, MATA-Samar members
documents of the city government, WATCH	belonging to the Samar Island Partnership for
Kidapawan inspected them and exposed	Peace and Development signed a Memorandum
significant questionable transactions: a non-	of Agreement with the Department of Interior
existent waste water treatment facility worth	and Local Government to encourage community
₱5.9 million (\$140,476); undelivered heavy	engagement and transparency in public
infrastructure equipment worth ₱45 million	transactions. MATA-Samar was officially
(\$1,071,429); and a suspect electricity bill	recognized as a member of the Millennium
amounting to ₱5 million (\$119,048). Focused	Challenge Account, a local monitoring
advocacy on these issues through media	counterpart to USAID's Millennium Challenge
campaigns and engagement with local councils	Corporation fund to address global poverty and
helped ensure the ultimate delivery of three of	reward good governance.
five missing pieces of equipment.	

WATCH Kidapawan	MATA-Samar
Active monitoring of the case of eight tax	Currently gathering information on local
collectors and treasury employees accused of	infrastructure projects and monitoring
involvement in the disappearance of ₱11.7	preparations for the 2011 Provincial Annual
million (\$278,571) in tax funds. Seven have	Budget.
served six month suspensions while an eighth	
denied accusations, with the case still pending.	
Supported a whistleblower, Lally Aninon,	Established links with other NGOs and
charged with libel after exposing illegal	government agencies and facilitated a feedback
collection activities. WATCH Kidapawan has	mechanism called Ulat sa Bayan (Report to the
consistently attended court hearings and raised	People) plus score cards and accountability
₱27,000 (\$643) for her bail bond. This show of	tools to monitor performance of local
support helped convince one of the accusers to	government units.
back down and withdraw her complaint.	
Raised publicity through a campaign of timely,	Publishes regular updates online and plans a
relevant radio spots and a Facebook account	weekly media forum to engage local officials
updated regularly with photos and stories.	and solicit public feedback.

• Conduct public outreach to encourage creation of anti-corruption networks composed of media and civil society groups

In December, IWPR formally engaged with its implementing partners, Center for Community Journalism and Development, Mindanao News and NUJP to discuss the project's objectives, goals, components, and roles and responsibilities.

In January, PPTRP participated in a forum of the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Government entitled "Powers of the Presidency: Preventing Misuse and Abuse" and another forum organized by the Civil Society Resources Institute, Inc, where they conducted outreach to good governance stakeholders and major NGO actors. Members of the organizations were enthusiastic for the project and committed to future collaboration in their initiatives.

During the year, PPTRP continuously established links with journalists, government people and civil society organizations - a critical landscape of transparency and accountability work in the Philippines. The project held several meetings with the Commission on Audit, Transparency International, Ombudsman, Department of Budget and Management, and Business World to share information, discuss synergies and possible collaboration in the area of information, education and communications and training for the goal of establishing an anti-corruption network. An opportunity to build a broader and more active constituency for reforms will be taken by linking the project with other anti-corruption initiatives.

In June, after the national elections, PPTRP approached the Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN) and Code NGO, two of the country's leading anti-corruption networks, to discuss a joint project to ensure that the new administration

prioritizes transparency and accountability issues. An important component of this project would be to organize a series of meetings with CSOs and other groups promoting transparency to develop a set of independent benchmarks and a system to monitor government efforts to improve transparency and accountability. The meetings would also address activities to directly engage with the new administration. PPTRP participated in two conveners' meetings to develop a collective action plan and strategy.

In May, to increase collaboration and information sharing, PPTRP convened over 50 corruption-fighting organizations including the Transparency and Accountability Network, Code NGO, Makati Business Club, the Ateneo School of Government, the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Government, Philippine Human Development Network, and the Association of Schools of Public Administration in the Philippines. PPTRP now has a network of more than 500 journalists from different provinces and in Manila. Accomplishments for the year include:

- Development of a 15-point anti-corruption covenant with milestones to measure the government's record in delivering positive change and commitment to transparency and public participation, using a survey to measure public expectations and demands;
- Creation of a Budget Advocacy Group, a budget monitoring group, with the Department of Budget and Management to identify concrete steps to increase people's participation in the budget process from preparation to accountability;
- The BIR, through one of its Commissioners, Joel Tan Torres, agreed to share with PPTRP information about taxpayers' records and tax reforms, in appropriate circumstances. Officials of the BIR have committed to submit features and other data to the website. Reports will be published as soon as they are available; and
- o DBM will have access to the website to post budget information and reports.

Anticipated Activities for Next Year

October will be a busy month for PPTRP. Scheduled for October 1 in Davao City is a roundtable discussion with the theme "Corruption as Violence, Integrity as Peace" led by partner MindaNews in collaboration with *Ehem!* Anti-corruption project. On October 21, a media seminar on Philippine budget topics including formulation, legislation, problems encountered, and reform initiatives will be conducted in partnership with Alternative Budget Initiative. This will be the first in a series of five such seminars to be conducted over the coming year. Members of PPTRP's local transparency groups and network of journalists will participate in this event.

Looking further ahead, a key priority will be to establish the two remaining local transparency groups in Ozamis and Bohol to engage media groups and civil society in the local districts monitor and report on improved fiscal accountability and transparency. Together with Kidapawan and Samar, PPTRP will assist media in these four pilot cities in researching and publishing annual report cards and special "Budget Watch" sections.

Another accomplishment will be planning and executing a series of ten advanced trainings of journalists and CSO members on monitoring and reporting corruption, building upon previous trainings. In addition, PPTRP will continue commissioning, publication and dissemination of reports and blogs, including series of stories on transparency and accountability issues in post-Ampatuan Maguindanao. PPTRP will also finish work on a handbook for journalists and CSO representatives to use in their anti-corruption efforts, to perpetuate the knowledge disseminated in these trainings.

PPTRP also plans to continue to participate in meetings of CSOWAG leading to specific activities such as dialogue with President Aquino and selected Cabinet members.

Near grant's end, a comparative study of baseline and post-training surveys on civic assessment of the media's role in reporting corruption will assess the impact of training and outreach activities on public perception of the media's anti-corruption efforts.

Foreseeable Opportunities and Concerns for Next Year

- Ongoing engagement between CSOs and selected government agencies to increase public transparency and accountability. This initiative provides opportunities to engage both sides towards increased public information dissemination and communication on their activities and the results through the media. A good take-off point is the press release which the PPTRP drafted for circulation and approval of the CSOWGAC.
- PPTRP will include some focus on national, regional, provincial and barangay level
 monitoring and reporting of transparency and corruption issues. This way, PPTRP would
 be able to help provide a reliable and accurate picture of the overall effect or "trickledown" of the President's promise to fight corruption in all levels.
- It is yet unclear whether the Matador program, a technical assistance from USAID DC aimed in building the capacity of local partners on new media technology, will push through in February 2010. Training activities scheduled in the same period may be pushed a back a few weeks. However, this program provides opportunities for the local partners of PPTRP as they are equipped with the skills to use new media technology for effective dissemination of information and in gathering feedback from the public.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN

COMPONENT 1: Legislative Support To The Office Of The Ombudsman

	Project Milestones	Project Results	Remarks
1	Comprehensive gap analysis of the legal framework pertaining to laws on bank secrecy, asset forfeiture, and the OMB charter completed by May 2010	'Legal Gap Analysis Report For The Proposed Amendatory Bills To the Ombudsman Charter and Forfeiture Law (Republic Act Nos. 6770 and 1379)'; and summarized matrix of the gaps and its corresponding proposed amendments completed and approved by OMB on 29 June 2010	The legal gap analysis was delayed a month after the target date due to the time required to conduct the research containing first-hand experience from the field and empirical based data and analysis of OMB cases.
2	Anti-corruption stakeholders consulted and coalitions established to support OMB legislative reform efforts by April 2010	Postponed. ABA will organize and conduct a small strategically designed roundtable discussion to present the "gap analysis" to other stakeholders including CSOs, executive agencies, courts etc. to garner support for the bills	Due to delays in finalizing the proposed legislation, project milestone was postponed as advised by ABA ROLI LAC Publicus Inc., to prioritize filing of the bills in the first session of the 15 th Congress and ensure inclusion in its priority list for action.
	Bills drafted and presented to Congress by June 2010	The proposed bills were drafted by Ombudsman Technical Working Group with the help of ABA ROLI Legislative Research Consultant Professor Gilbert Sembrano and Atty. Racquel Dimalanta on 25 June 2010 Ombudsman Gutierrez approved and endorsed the Official bills in Congress through the Senate President, Speaker of the House, Secretaries of both Lower House and Senate with the assistance of Publicus Asia, Inc. on 12 July 2010	End project target achieved. The proposed bills were further polished and finalized to include other salient findings of the gap analysis with all the supporting materials completed by the TWG with the assistance of the LAC.
4	Coalition of legislators championing the bills formed by July 2010	The Placeholder bills garnered sponsorship of Representative Roilo Golez (House Bill No. 846-847) on 6 July 2010 The Placeholder bills garnered sponsorship of Senator Miguel Zubiri (Senate No. 1447-1448) on 13 July 2010	End project target achieved. The set of bills are currently pending in the First Reading and referred to the respective Committees on Justice of both houses.
5	Bills monitored by OMB and LAC as they progress through Congress from First Reading to passage from June 2010 to June	House Bill Nos. 846 - 847 is now pending First reading and has been referred to the Committee on Justice since July 28.	Committee on Justice, headed by Representative Neil Tupas Jr., 5th District of Iloilo, is presently focused on impeachment complaints filed against the Ombudsman, postponing consideration of other pending measures.
	2011	Senate Bill Nos. 1447-1448 is now pending First reading under the Committee on Justice since September 1.	To speed up committee hearings, Senator Francis Escudero convened a TWG to review and approve the results of the discussions.

COMPONENT 2: Strengthening the Capacity of Journalists to Report on Local Corruption

ſ			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Remarks		Jan - Mar 2010	Apr - Jun 2010	Jul - Sep 2010
1	Number of <i>Pera Natin 'To!</i> website hits increased from 0 to 5200	End of project target achieved. The project is tracking the number of 'unique visitors' who have accessed the website. This refers the number of individual users with a unique IP address visiting and viewing the website, either once or many times while hits refer to number of pages/links that have been clicked by a user. This indicator adequately tracks the number of people accessing the website regardless of frequency and extent.		3,819	8,586	15,787
2	Average number of ten journalist members access their accounts monthly	End of project target achieved. In place of a member's only section of the website, PPTRP created two Facebook accounts to increase public engagement and a broader constituent base. The members consisting of individuals from the media, civil society organizations, youth and student groups, workers of international development organizations, and ordinary citizens daily posts comments, feedback, and reports on topics posted by PPTRP. This indicator accounts for the success of Facebook as a tool for all sectors to connect and communicate freely about issues that encourage active involvement for transparency and accountability in government. The project is currently exploring the use of Facebook Insight to track trends within user growth and demographics, consumption of content, and creation of contents.		379	500	693
3	At least 25 public submissions to 'Highlight a Change' section of website	While there are no reports currently submitted in this system, PPTRP has been receiving information on local government's positive reaction to PPTRP initiatives through direct emails, Facebook comments, and story contributions. PPTRP is working on enhancing this section through several activities from the website, trainings, and media groups to encourage members to report on instances of positive changes in government. Currently, PPTRPs local transparency group, WATCH Kidapawan, has published three positive stories 25 of their local government's improved transparency and accountability as a result of the group's monitoring and engagement.				-

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http://transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=140:watch-kidapawan-campaigns-for-more-transparency-ingovernment-project&catid=54:project-news&Itemid=97;

http://transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=123:kidapawan-pilot-transparency-reporting-group-reports-on-its-first-3-months-&catid=54:project-news&Itemid=97

http://transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=108:-ukay-ukay-vendor-takes-on-local-government-in-kidapawan-over-claims-of-corruption&catid=44:stories<emid=94

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Remarks	Q1 Oct - Dec 2009	Q2 Jan - Mar 2010	Q3 Apr - Jun 2010	Q4 Jul - Sep 2010
50% of journalists pass comprehension and terminology test	Pre-test results show that of 172 participant respondents composed of media practitioners, CSO workers and other sectors, only 49 (28%) scored the 70% passing rate. However, post-training results show that out of the 165 participant respondents, 155 or 94% passed the percent rate with 52% scoring a perfect 10-point score and 23% who got a 9-point score. Further, results of the pre and post-training tests show a marked increase in the participants' understanding of corruption concepts from a weighted score of 5.4 to 9.0, an average of 90%.				94%
Number of reports received by the website's e-mail hotline increased from 0 to 750	During the year, a total of 21 reports were received and investigated by PPTRP's journalist network. However, due to insufficient evidence, the reports have not been substantiated. Due to the steady increase of tip-offs, PPTRP will enhance the reporting mechanism to increase public involvement in credibly reporting alleged corruption and is exploring the possibility of forming a team of journalists whose sole responsibility is to verify reports and once validated pursue full-blown stories. Next quarter, a policy on how to preserve confidentiality of reports and security of whistleblowers will be finalized and disseminated to all journalists.		11	16	21
50% of the criteria used in Public Accountability Report Cards are validated as effective monitoring tools	Since June 2010, WATCH Kidapawan has adopted criteria in monitoring LGUs' compliance with anti- corruption laws and regulations and has posted several results showing the tools to be effective. A more comprehensive analysis of this initiative of all the local transparency groups will be released by the end of the project. ²⁶ By September 2010, MATA-Samar has also begun using standards to increase public accountability especially in the area of budget and procurement. It has gained results including the signing of Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Interior and Local Government and participation in budget hearings. ²⁷				NA
At least 10 media outlets of the four target areas adopt a Budget Watch or similar feature	End of project target achieved. WATCH Kidapawan's activities and campaigns are simultaneously aired on a regular basis on three local radio stations and weekly newspaper Southern Voice journal. In Samar, MATA-Samar's activities and campaigns are regularly reported in samarnews.com (online and print versions) and three other local radio stations.			10	10

http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=123:kidapawan-pilot-transparency-reporting-group-reports-on-its-first-3-months-&catid=54:project-news&Itemid=97

http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=140:watch-kidapawan-campaigns-for-more-transparency-in-government-project&catid=54&Itemid=97

http://www.transparencyreporting.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=138:samar-pilot-transparency-reporting-group-campaigns-kick-off-&catid=54&Itemid=97

	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Remarks	Q1 Oct - Dec 2009	Q2 Jan - Mar 2010	Q3 Apr - Jun 2010	Q4 Jul - Sep 2010		
	50% of the surveyed public report increased confidence in the ability of media to	A baseline survey was conducted on public expectation and evaluation of media coverage of corruption during the early part of the year and published online on May 8, 2010. Results of this survey will be measured against a post-project survey in March 2011 to evaluate positive changes and effectiveness of the project.						
	report effectively and responsibly on corruption issues	A summary of the findings of the baseline survey showed that the news media, especially in local communities, face huge challenges in addressing corruption. These include lack of access to information, compromised security and safety, poor economic conditions, political patronage (sometimes the media are divided along partisan lines), and a lack of knowledge and skills (anti-corruption laws, investigative reporting techniques). Fortunately, civil society and local governments seem inclined to engage in multi-sectoral local anti-corruption strategies with media adding value to the monitoring and reporting aspects of the initiatives. Lastly, based on the focus group discussion conducted in Northern Samar and North Cotabato, civil society organizations believe that news media				NA		
	OTHERS - Feedback	play a crucial role as watchdogs and encourage citizens to act. and Reporting Mechanisms						
-	Talakayan	There have been considerable amount of views on the initial topics and issues posted particularly combating corruption in the Philippines with 1151 views and PPTRP as the Philippines future with 1136 views. PPTRPs Facebook accounts, however, have become the most effective tool used by members and the public to comment and provide feedback.			3	6		
-	Blogs	A total of 13 blogs out of the 25 end of project target have been published discussing articles and reports posted on the website, online campaigns and other features.			6	13		
-	Rate this Site	As of September 2010, a total of 160 readers/visitors rated the site. Of this number, 138 (86.3 percent) rated it as 'very useful; 13 (8.1 percent) said it needs improvement; 5 (3.1 percent) rated it as 'very poor'; and 4 (2.5 percent) rated it as average.				86% rated very useful		
	OTHERS - Information Education Campaign Materials							
	Project News	As of September 2010, PPTRP has produced 25 backgrounders and commissioned reports on transparency and accountability and 23 project news stories out of the 115 end project target. To a Google hits provide a gauge for increase in web traffic as a direct consequence of the project, thereby showing direct awareness of the project and presumably interest in it and internationally. The project committed to increase Google hits from 0 to 5,200 by the end of its implementation. Statistics show that the project has already surpassed the target by 500%.		1	7	23		
	Background Papers/ Reports			8	12	25		
	Google Hits			813,0 00	2.5 million	2.6 million		

SUMMARY OF QUANTITATIVE FY 2010 OUTPUTS

	Date	Activity	Number of Participants				
			Female	Male	Total		
1		LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT TO THE OF THE OMBUDSMAN	16	16	32		
1	May-10	Ombudsman Writeshop, Hotel Vida, Clark, Pampanga	16	16	32		
		THEN THE CAPACITY OF JOURNALISTS STIGATE AND REPORT LOCAL FION	149	228	377	Media	CSO/other sectors
	23-Mar- 10	Project Launch of Philippine Public Transparency Reporting Project (PPTRP) "Pera Natin 'To!" (It's Our Money!) Website, Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman	27	38	65	22	43
	27-Jun- 10	1st PPTRP Transparency and Anti-Corruption Reporting Training, Catbalogan city	6	14	20	11	9
	7-Jul-10	Closed-door Roundtable Discussion with CSOs on Engagement with President Aquino, Quezon City	6	7	13	0	13
	15-Jul-10	2nd PPTRP Transparency and Anti-Corruption Reporting Training, Kidapawan City, Cotabato	15	9	24	14	10
	25-Jul-10	3rd PPTRP Transparency and Anti-Corruption Reporting Training, Cagayan de Oro City	5	17	22	15	7
	1-Aug-10	4th PPTRP Transparency and Anti-Corruption Reporting Training, Dipolog	6	19	25	21	4
2	10-Aug- 10	5th PPTRP Transparency and Anti-Corruption Reporting Training, Tagbilaran, Bohol	11	15	26	10	16
	14-Aug- 10	6th PPTRP Transparency and Anti-Corruption Reporting Training, Legazpi City, Albay	4	16	20	16	4
	23-Aug- 10	2nd Closed-door Roundtable Discussion of CSOs for Engagement with President Aquino on transparency and accountability, Quezon City	6	4	10	0	10
	27-Aug- 10	7th PPTRP Transparency and Anti-Corruption Reporting Training, Davao City	8	7	15	13	2
	18-Sep- 10	8th PPTRP Transparency and Anti-Corruption Reporting Training, Surigao	2	21	23	20	3
	24-Sep- 10	9th PPTRP Transparency and Anti-Corruption Reporting Training, Pampanga	8	14	22	16	6
	25-Sep- 10	Training/Forum on Transparency and Anti- Corruption Reporting (PPTRP provided logistical support, NUJP led the training), Cebu	31	39	70	30	40
	3-Oct-10	10th PPTRP Transparency and Anti-Corruption Reporting Training, Ozamiz City	14	8	22	16	6
N	ote: Total in	GRAND TOTAL cludes 10 th training completing the basic training	165	244	409	204	173

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Copy of proposed bills approved and endorsed by the Ombudsman to Congress (House Bill No. 846-847 and Senate No. 1447-1448)
- 2. Legal Gap Analysis Report For The Proposed Amendatory Bills To Republic Act Nos. 6770 And 1379
- 3. Screen shot of the PPTRP website as of Sep 2010
- 4. List of background papers, reports, project news and blogs as of Sep 2010

The following attachments have been provided in the previous quarterly reports. Additional copies are available upon request.

- 5. Press Release: "New anti-corruption reporting project launched".
- 6. Office of the Ombudsman Office Order No. 199, Series of 2009.
- 7. OMB order constituting the Legislative Liaison Unit.
- 8. Media and Public Accountability Survey and Report
- 9. PPTRP training module and handouts on investigating and reporting corruption

PHOTOGRAPHS OF KEY EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

To conserve resources and to facilitate the electronic transfer of the full Annual Report with images, ABA ROLI/Philippines has set up a Picasa web album containing captioned photographs of activities for FY 2010. Please access this Picasa web album at the following link:

http://picasaweb.google.com/abaroliphil/FY2010CooperativeAgreementNo492A00090003300#