

Practices That Work!

Reason for starting the innovative practice

The establishment of the Investment Promotion Center was identified as one of the priorities of the Province at the GOLD Project Planning Workshop in October, 1995. Its priority status was confirmed during initial meetings with the Bohol Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Role of Implementing Organization

The provincial government issued an Executive Order creating a technical working group that would take the lead in the effort to establish the promotions unit. It also issued an executive order creating the Investment Promotion Advisory Group (IPAG) which served as the venue for public-private consultations on matters pertaining to investment promotion. The province made available staff time, logistics and legislative support to ensure the establishment of the capability in the province.

How it works

The Center provides prospective investors with information and support to facilitate the establishment of business in the province. The Center also plans out and implements regular investment promotion campaigns to draw the interest of investors. The Center's work is guided by a Framework for Development which was drafted after extensive and intensive consultations with representatives from all the municipalities. The Framework identifies the province's selected investment areas.

The Center has an office manned by very highly trained staff. Annual investment promotion plans are drafted and carried out. The center has implemented several investment promotion campaigns in the past including those to the United States, Japan and Canada. The private sector supported these trips, financially and other forms.

How barriers/obstacles were overcome

There were two major barriers to the establishment of the Investment Promotion Unit. The first was the disagreement over the nature of development that the province should take. The second was the Department of Budget's disapproval of the unit's formal creation. The first was resolved by the holding of municipal cluster workshops for the purpose of defining the province's "development path". The second was resolved by the creation, initially of an inter-departmental unit tasked to handle matters concerning investment promotion.

Details of benefits and results

1. Actual investment flows generated from the efforts of the Center.
2. Employment generated by investment inflows.
3. The privatization of Bohol's Utilities Departments was an offshoot of the

General Information

Innovative Practice Name

Bohol Investment Promotion Center

Location

Tagbilaran City, Bohol

Date Started

February 1996

Date Completed

December 1997

Estimated Cost

P2.5 million

Project Where Practice Is Done

Tagbilaran City, Bohol

Award Received by Project

Galing Pook

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Municipal Clusters workshops.



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