

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Rule of Law Working Group

PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

April 17, 2012 (Tuesday)

9:00 am- 12:00 pm

Heritage Hotel, Manila

A. Welcoming Remarks. Assistant Secretary (ASEC) Geronimo Sy of the Department of Justice (DOJ) who serves as the Chairperson of the Working Group recognized the presence of the co-convenors of the Philippines Development Forum (PDF), namely, Ms. Gloria Steele, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and co-convenor; Atty. Eirene Aguila of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and welcomed the participants to the first PDF Rule of Law Meeting for 2012.



Participants were requested to introduce themselves, their institutions and to briefly share Easter activities. *(Please see attached attendance sheet.)*

B. Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 3rd PDF Meeting dated September 7, 2011. ASEC Sy invited the participants' attention to the minutes of the previous meeting showing the PDF clusters. Item No. 4 of the minutes which contained the working definition of the Rule of Law was highlighted with a suggestion to incorporating the definition in a matrix. He stated that this is the first time that a working definition for the rule of law has been adopted. The minutes was duly approved.

2. Approval of the Final List of PDF Members/Alternatives. ASEC Sy informed the members that the PDF Cluster is organized in two ways. Tier 1 lists the regular members while Tier 2 is the expanded group. Tier 2 members may have different degrees of participation given the mandates of the office and/or agency constraints. However, all members still have access to the progress of PDF projects and the cross-cutting programs that are being implemented by the PDF through its clusters in the spirit of transparency and cooperation.

ASEC Sy made special mention of the presence of the Assistant Ombudsman Evelyn Baliton Chairperson of the Inter-Agency Anti-Graft Coordinating Council (IAAGCC) of the

Ombudsman with the DOJ as vice-chair. The role of the Office of Ombudsman is key in the cluster. He noted that the participants are a good representation of the PDF membership.

3. Action Items Arising from the Third Meeting

(a) DILG has already been officially made as co-convenor of the PDF.

(b) PDF members have been provided with their own PDF folders. Materials have been uploaded to the DOJ PDF website to provide members efficient and easy access to information on matters taken up during meetings and to track progress of cluster activities.

(c) National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) and the Land Registration Authority (LRA) have already been invited.

4. Status of Current Judicial Reform Programs of PDF-Members Working Group

- GLORIA STEELE, USAID. During the last meeting, USAID mentioned that it has entered into partnerships for growth with several agencies. Since then, the parties had been working together to come up with design programs for their respective organizations. Specifically, the components of projects on judicial effectiveness and anti-corruption are being mapped out with the DOJ, the Courts, and the Commission on Audit. A detailed report will be given during the next PDF meeting.
- CAMILLE HAGSTROEM, EU DELEGATION IN MANILA. It was agreed during the 3rd PDF rule of law working group meeting that the EU would be signing with the Philippines, through the DILG, for 10 million Euro grant to help with the implementation of criminal justice reform programs. There was a delay in the preparation and signing of the legal documents but the delegation is optimistic that everything will be ready by the next PDF meeting.
- ASEC Sy, DOJ. The PDF, through the DOJ, is planning to request government agencies to regularly submit updates of initiatives and projects with all development partners. This is to provide a better coordinating mechanism among the PDF members and to prevent further fragmentation of the justice system. Members may submit any project development to the PDF for notation by the secretariat.

ASEC Sy stated that the Japan International Cooperating Agency (JICA) has been invited to become a permanent member of the PDF.

5. A New Direction: A Presentation by Assistant Secretary Geronimo L. Sy, DOJ

- *Introduction*. During the last meeting in September 2011, the PDF wanted to identify the key plans and programs for the forum that are sector-wide and not assigned to specific clusters. The objectives are to, *first*, create a venue where cross-cutting issues will be addressed and *second*, to show PDF partners a full

menu of programs. Mr. Gerry Porta's (USAID) said that the forum is a venue to look into how it can improve the whole chain, *vis-à-vis* merely introducing changes link by link. In other words, the focus should be on governance as a whole and not on a continued parochial system of introducing different piece-meal projects.

- *Presentation Proper.* An assessment of the current state of the justice system shows that:
 - (a) *Fragmented justice system.* The offices and agencies in the justice sector are not coordinated under one goal or direction. The system default is a *pingpong* mechanism or passing the buck to another agency.
 - (b) *No system-wide plan.* Thus, one of the goals of the PDF is to be able to create a work plan that will integrate all agency activities and develop a unified program of activities. Members of the PDF working group have recently attended several consultations which resulted to the development of a Judicial Sector Coordinating Council (JSCC) work plan. This will later be presented by Atty. Carol Mercado (*TAF and JSCC Secretariat*) and Director Monica Pagunsan (*DOJ*).
 - (c) *No structure.* Because of the fragmented justice system, partners are forced to work with different agencies, instead of simply coordinating with one justice sector for all the programs.
 - (d) *Sustainability of programs, activities, and projects.* It is not productive for government to be totally dependent on outside assistance. Once a pilot-project funded through technical assistance has proven successful, government should be able to sustain it by dedicating financial resources taken from the national budget. This will institutionalize the program and shield it from uncertainties in resource support.
 - (e) *Efficiency.* Technical assistance should be optimized. Implementing JSCC projects will also be more efficient if done sector-wide.

- Assistant Secretary Sy moved on with the presentation regarding the goals of solving or addressing the problems of fragmented justice system and encouraged everyone to work together and strengthen every link or part of the system. He reported that there is now a system-wide plan. He briefly described the structure, the sustainability of program/activity/project, which will be brought to the agency level, and on the question of efficiency, the working models were already coordinating and working with the functional teams.

- The first draft of the JSCC work plan is expected within 2012. It will work on projects on a cluster basis reflecting the the whole spectrum of the justice system. The agencies which have already given their commitment to be involved in the reformation of the justice sector system are included in the presentation. In the next succeeding months, agencies should be able to fine tune their goals based on their respective cluster foci and define their specific programs.

The five basic clusters:

Cluster A

- Focus: framework, good governance, capacity, resources, and cooperation
- Involved agencies: Supreme Court (SC), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Department of Justice (DOJ), Commission on Human Rights (CHR)

Cluster B

- Focus: crime prevention, law enforcement and prosecution
- Involved agencies: National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), DOJ, SC, Commission on Elections (COMELEC)
- *ASEC Sy* commented that this is the cluster that the *EU* may be interested in given its focus in crime prevention.

Cluster C

- Focus: case decongestion and backlog reduction
- Involved agencies: SC, DOJ, Public Attorney's Office (PAO), COMELEC, Sandiganbayan
- *ASEC Sy* informed the body that an example of a project under this cluster would be the creation and implementation of the National Justice Information System (NJIS) where all information specific to courts like the SC, CTA, CA, Sandiganbayan, and Ombudsman would have a common repository. The aim is to have a systems-wide approach on reducing backlog and not for separate agencies since it may mean that cases are just with another office.

Cluster D

- Focus: restorative justice
- Involved agencies: Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Parole and Probation Administration (PPA), CHR, SC, CSC
- *ASEC Sy* mentioned that the BJMP will be included in Cluster B for better monitoring of the period of stay of detention prisoners.

Cluster E

- Focus: specialized justice services, access to justice, vulnerable, and marginalized groups
- Involved agencies: CHR, DOJ, SC, PAO
- *ASEC Sy* explained that this cluster encompasses issues on gender, human rights, human trafficking, drug trafficking, tax evasion, corruption, contract disputes, commercial concerns and other priority cases.

The floor was opened for comments, clarifications on the structure, and any suggestions.

- (a) *Gloria Steele, USAID* said that having this tiered game plan would enable donors to ascertain which areas they would want to focus on, thus, maximizing the impact of their respective resources. The donors would also

know which agencies to coordinate with to come up with programs best fitted to their focus areas. In sum, she commended the PDF for coming up with an excellent organization of the justice sector into specific groups for better coordination, assessment, and approaches.

(b) ASEC Sy, DOJ

- A key feature of the justice sector plan is the integration of programs of several agencies, like the Supreme Court, the DILG, the DOJ and all its attached sectors. Instead of fragmented programs, there is now a unifying theme which is the focus area of each cluster. With a singular work plan in place, all agencies in one cluster would be working on the same page. Thus, partners would not have to go to agencies, one by one, to find out what their specific programs are. The idea is inclusive justice.
- The beauty of the JSCC is the ease by which information may be inputted and accessed, thus strengthening the rule of law and making justice more accessible to the citizens. Examples will be the NBI clearance system and the BI Open Border Secure Entry Program.
- ASEC Sy shared the technical and political challenges to the plans but expressed that these can be solved working together.

(c) Scott Ciment, ABA-ROLI first commended the PDF for coming up with a good systems approach program. He also said that cross-cutting projects which coincide with the focus areas and objectives of Cluster C on case backlog reduction are already being done. The CA, for example, deals with a high percentage of backlog, now being steadily reduced with the help of USAID through its court's automation project. At present, programs are in place and are successful in creating databases which are a tremendous source of information. The second point that Mr. Ciment raised was a concern on maintaining respect among the branches of government because there may be confidential and sensitive information which cannot be shared among agencies. Having said this, Mr. Climent expressed his optimism that the line-up of PDF projects would help the country move forward.

(d) Camilla Hagstroem, EU Delegation Manila stated that its tiered action plan would help donors (1) decide where to put their efforts; (2) know where the Philippine would want to go or what their vision is for the country; and (3) monitor projects. She added that she is looking forward to the details that each cluster would come up with.

(e) Joan Salapare, JICA informed the body that it has been cooperating with the PNP on some of the latter's programs. She added that JICA is very interested in learning more about the programs to ascertain which would fall under JICA's priority areas.

(f) Caroline Lee, Hanns Seidel Foundation expressed the same views that the tiered game plan presents a clear view of the vision that the Philippine government has for the justice system in the country. She added that the

cluster approach would be most helpful to partners as it provides for easy identification of areas for assistance.

- (g) *ASEC Sy, DOJ* shared that the ongoing codification project of the DOJ with Hanns Seidel Foundation, in cooperation with agencies under Clusters A and B, specifically, the judiciary and the Office of the Ombudsman, is moving forward at a good pace.

One issue in the justice system is for a uniform and industry-marked compensation scheme for justice sector personnel. An initial feasibility study may be needed. As regards the concern raised by Mr. Ciment, ASEC Sy assured the body that institutional independence will always be respected and recognized while heeding the call for close cooperation among the justice sector agencies. Independence does not and should not mean non-cooperation precisely because it is a system of justice.

- (h) *Thomas Carnegie, US Embassy* pointed at Cluster B as its division's focus area. He gave his commitment to work hard to ensure that their programs would be most helpful in realizing the goals of the cluster.
- (i) *ASEC Sy, DOJ* reminded the members that the agencies specifically mentioned under each cluster are only part of the initial tagging. But by virtue of each agency's membership in the PDF, each will necessarily have to belong to a cluster. He underlined the PDF vision of inherent sustainability of projects and that the cluster systems approach must lie beyond the ambit of politics.

At present, the JSCC is working on three models:

- (a) Book 1 of the Criminal Code which is part of the Codification Project with the Hanns Seidel Foundation is nearly done. Throughout the process, the members of the Codification Committee realized that a regular legal revision or codification program should be in place and should be part of the 2013 Matrix. Particularly, ASEC Sy hoped to undertake the same codification project on the Civil Code, Labor Code, and other major laws.
- (b) Another is the Cyber Crime and Forensic Training Program between the US and PH through their Departments of Justice. The project's goal is to be able to train 1,000 prosecutors by the end of the project. By 2013, budget for these kinds of training shall be handled by the government so that the partnership can move to other training programs like the financial crimes capacity building training to be conducted with NBI and the judiciary, and environmental crimes training.
- (c) The JSCC, in partnership with JICA, is also considering a project focused on economic justice, particularly on anti-trust and cartel. The working model for JICA is based on a capacity building program advocacy. Under such, JSCC is preparing four major events for consumer and business welfare.

- In summary, the observations were:

- a. A system wide work plan and corresponding programs are already in place to address the fragmented justice system.
 - b. A definite structure like the cluster systems approach that was earlier presented has already been developed.
 - c. PDF will look into the possibility of creating a system that will be the repository of all the information and projects undertaken to ensure sustainability.
 - d. As regards efficiency, inter-agency teams were previously created and given the task of looking into the feasibility of projects like the creation of an asset forfeiture group to address the disposal of forfeited properties, the issuance of an order to abolish filing fees in the DOJ and the revision of the bail bond guide.
- Gloria Steele, USAID, at this point, raised the following: (1) USAID closely works with the judiciary and she was wondering why none of these efforts are reflected in the presentation; (2) She wanted a clearer definition of 'efficiency' from the perspective of the Philippine government.
 - ASEC Sy said that the information from the initial presentations were mostly taken from the executive department. (He is not aware of the judiciary projects unless reported by the judiciary or USAID and this is an example of the need for better coordination.)
 - Judge Econg, SC-PMO added that there are some technicalities that the court needs to iron out but assured that it had been working together with the DOJ and DILG in forming the JSCC Strategic Plan. She also pledged that SC's participation will certainly improve in the following months.
 - Atty. Abella, Court of Appeals likewise added that the courts are trying to focus on performance and boosting the morale of its employees.
 - ASEC Sy confirmed Atty. Abella's statement that CA Presiding Justice Reyes is very supportive in coordinating projects with the JSCC. The judiciary will always be a main partner in PDF or JSCC projects.
 - ASEC Sy said that JSCC is still working on the meaning of 'efficiency' but that he would be happy to see proposal or suggestions from development partners on how to assess efficiency. On the Philippine government's side, it is important to ensure that development assistance is properly used and not wasted.

6. Judicial Sector Reform Program Workplan Discussion

- ASEC Sy gave a short introduction before giving the floor to Atty. Mercado and Ms. Pagunsan for a more detailed presentation of the Justice System Reform Program.

- (a) All members of the PDF is necessarily part of the JSCC mechanism
 - (b) Structurally, JSCC stands for cross-cutting measures. An example of which was the hosting of the First National Criminal Justice Summit.
 - (c) JSCC also forms a big part of one of the priority projects of the President which is the National Justice Information System which will encompass the whole range of data and processes of the justice system.
 - (d) JSCC is also conceptualizing a justice sector policy and research center which will serve as a repository of all JSCC projects, researches, studies, and capacity-building and project management offices. This center will no longer be a physical venue but will be a functional one which will basically create an information link among agencies, department, and branches. The JSCC has already created a proposal which was submitted to the DOJ Secretary for review before being forwarded to the President for final approval.
 - (e) Lastly, JSCC is also developing book of forms containing clearances from the barangay to the NBI to the PNP, all forms from birth until death, and application forms, for example, for the bail bond, insurance, forfeiture and others. The idea is to study these forms and ensure that all data fields in all forms handed out by government agencies and offices are uniform. Some examples were cited including the nomenclature system. It is also an immediate goal to have a uniform case numbering system and JSCC is planning to use the UMID System for that. In sum, the goal of this project is to have the same language in all government forms.
- Scott Ciment, ABA-ROLL said that while harmonizing all government forms is a worthwhile endeavor, he is concerned on the magnitude of the project. Mr. Ciment then proceeded to relate his experience at the Quezon City courts on creating a database using the same terms for all case events. According to him, such effort needs collaboration with high level authorities. In another project with CA, the ABA ROLI team had to meet everyday to come up with a good database. He ended his comment by stating that though difficult, he understands that this is a necessary task.
 - ASEC Sy thanked Mr. Ciment for his advice and asked the representative from the Bureau of Immigration for comments.
 - Mr. Santos, BI concurred with Mr. Ciment's observation of the level of difficulty of the task. He agreed with Mr. Ciment that the lack of uniformity of entry labels is a pressing problem and should be addressed at the soonest possible time.
 - Judge Econg, SC-PMO shared with the participants that the courts have already partially implemented a uniform system in so far as case numbering system. She suggested that the JSCC take a look at the system and possible adopt it for uniformity.
 - ASEC Sy thanked Judge Econg for the good suggestion. He also reiterated that the uniform system will be subject to security of all the departments Agencies will also not be coerced

to share information which they deem confidential. At this point, the JSCC is pre-qualifying the search engine to be used in this proposed system.

- Judge Econg, SC-PMO raised a concern on the sufficiency of the budget allocated for the project. She said that P4billion was spent on the judiciary case numbering system, and it is not even implemented in all courts because there are courts in far-flung areas which neither have electricity nor any network coverage.
- ASEC Sy related that there is an ongoing project to connect all 213 prosecution offices are connected. By the end of the year, the DOJ hopes to extend the system to PAO and to other agencies. The plan is to have one broadband for every hall of justice. In sum, ASEC Sy acknowledged that creating a uniform system is a daunting task but he believes that, *first*, anything worth doing might as well be difficult, and *second*, ambitious policies make life more interesting.
- Carol Mercado, TAF proceeded to present the JSCC Framework and Action Plan for 2012-2016, specifically, on good governance in the justice sector.

1. Measure or Standards of good governance

a. Professionalized justice bureaucracy

(1) Competent justice sector actions

(2) Strengthened integrity mechanism and control structures

b. Equitable and inclusive access to justice

(1) People empowered to claim their basic rights

c. Widened and strengthened strategic cooperation among justice institutions

(1) Institutionalized justice sector coordinating council

2. Effective Crime Prevention

a. Decrease in crime incidence

(1) Operationalized national crime prevention plan

(2) Implementation crime detection mechanisms

(3) Implemented integrated clearance system

b. Increase conviction rate in criminal case which would deter commission of crimes

(1) Developed capacity in forensic evidence gathering and appreciation so that our justice system would not have to rely too much on witness testimony

(2) Implemented operational guidelines in case build-up

- Atty. Mercado further shared that the draft guidelines has already been submitted to the DOJ Secretary.

(3) Rationalizing laws and procedures

- Atty. Mercado said that projects under this measure or standards will be implemented to fill in gaps and minimize redundancies in Philippine laws. Further, she said that there are also plans to codify the rules on preliminary investigation and establish

guidelines on probable cause. Lastly, Atty. Mercado said that the judiciary wanted to change the standard for filing cases.

- Gerry Porta, USAID asked if the JSCC is considering involving the local community to improve the peace and order situation in each barangay or city. He cited the role of the Peace and Order Council as mandated under the Local Government Code in fulfilling this objective. He also mentioned considerations of community policing initiatives.
- Atty. Mercado said that there are projects already in place to encourage community policing.

3. Effective and efficient speedy resolution of cases

a. Effective case build-up

(1) Rationalized investigative procedures

b. Expanded Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

(1) Implemented SC Guidelines on Expanded Court-Annexed Mediation

(2) Implemented ADR Law of 2004

(3) Implemented Prosecution Level ADR

c. Decongested dockets

(1) Pilot tested one-time docket decongestion

- Atty. Mercado explained that this is a small-scale project being managed by Justice Roberto Abad in selected courts in Manila.
- Judge Econg, SC-PMO interjected that this is actually a project being funded by the USAID and is now being implemented by the ABA-ROLI. She narrated that Phase 1 of the project involved choosing 17 courts with high case load. According to a preliminary study conducted, a court can effectively handle only 250 cases at a given time. Thus, the strategy of the project was to first effectively lessen the load of these chosen courts and then ensure that the reduced docket would be maintained. She further narrated that the chosen courts came from Manila and Quezon City (QC). In the QC project, however, a different strategy was adopted along the way. The team decided to consult the lawyers and other stakeholders on how to efficiently resolve or terminate cases. The consultations result to the QC Trial Guidelines. The team further added a layer which is the automation of the QC court system. What is being tested in QC is the effectiveness of QC courts in terms of case disposition as compared to their counterparts in other metropolitan cities given that the QC courts operate under a different and stricter set of rules and case automation.
- Judge Econg, SC-PMO also commented that the JSCC recommended actions are dependent on the actions of agencies. On the problem of case decongestion for example, the limited number of courts in populated areas still remains despite the implementation of the case backlog reduction program of the judiciary. The creation of courts is a

legislative function. Thus, Judge Econg suggested to bring in the legislative branch into the JSCC agenda.

- ASEC Sy, DOJ said that the JSCC is in the process of drafting a bill that would match the number of courts in a given place to the volume of cases filed in that place.
- Judge Econg, SC-PMO further shared court projects like having socialized court fees or those that are dependent on the earning capacity of the person or his family. The Court *En Banc* has not yet acted on the proposal. Judge Econg surmised that the problem lies in the technical nature of the proposal which deals with algorithms that judges and justices are finding difficulty in understanding.
- ASEC Sy, DOJ asked the secretariat to take note of this limitation.
- Atty. Mercado, TAF explained that there are certain projects that involve the legislation. Also, she clarified that the one-time docket decongestion project is different from the one that Judge Econg described earlier. In the one-time docket decongestion project, what is being done is to (1) scan the cases and (2) assign them to auxiliary judges. Later, a forensic case analysis will be conducted. The judiciary is also in the process of approving the pilot-testing of the proposed rules on one-time face to face hearing, which, if successful, would replace the procedure in the trial courts.

(2) Streamlined procedures for judicious case decongestion

(3) Accountable service providers

4. Restorative justice and community based rehabilitation program

a. Integrate restorative justice processes in the management of

detention facilities and community based rehabilitation institutions

(1) Capacitated justice system actors on restorative justice

(2) Identified/implemented of restorative justice programs in jail and prison management

(3) Developed and implemented restorative justice integration and institutional guidelines

b. Strengthen volunteer probation aid program

(1) Capacity gained in the implementation of rehabilitation programs

(2) VPAs trained in restorative justice processes

c. Improve safekeeping, rehabilitation and other welfare services for PDL and released offenders

(1) Constructed and upgraded facilities for PDL

(2) Formulated and adopted workable Philippine minimum standards in the treatment of PDLs and ROS.

d. Provide adequate facilities with better human living conditions

- Gerry Porta, USAID commented that the passage of the law that increased the minimum age of criminal liability resulted in a

corresponding increase in juvenile crimes and the number of children in conflict of the law. And because of the lack of diversion measures and programs, these children are just set free.

- ASEC Sy agreed with Mr. Porta that it is not the age that is the problem but the lack of diversion programs to correct the behavior. The Criminal Code Committee also wants to dispense with the discernment requirement to ascertain liability.
 - Atty. Mercado, Asia Foundation added that one of the goals of the JSCC is to have zero children in jail.
 - Atty. Aguila, DILG said that despite the passage pertaining to facilities for children in conflict with the law, research showed that there are still detention centers which house children within adult facilities. The DILG were able to implement an exit program for these minors.
- Ma. Monica Pagunsan, Director of the Planning and Management Services, DOJ presented specific activities of the Judicial Sector Reform Program on good governance to include:
 1. Activities to implement good governance in the justice system
 - a. Continued capacity building or updating of skills
 - (1) Human resources
 - (2) New policies, laws, rules, and regulations
 - (3) Investigation on science-based evidence for law enforcers and prosecutors
 - Director Pagunsan, DOJ explained that what the JSCC aims for is to equip the justice sector with the necessary skills to deal with new trends in crimes such as cyber crimes.
 - b. Expand and implement integrity development reviews
 - c. Implement agency-specific codes of conduct
 - (1) Improve internal mechanism for discipline
 - ASEC Sy proposed to (a) have a uniform code of conduct for all agencies under the justice sector; (2) develop a good governance index for the justice system to monitor key areas like performance management and monitoring; and (3) harmonize terms of references.
 - (2) Specific activities on effective crime prevention include operationalizing the national crime prevention plan and implementing a community based policing program
 - (3) Activities on the effective and efficient resolution of cases
 - a. Establish policy guideline in the determination of probable cause
 - b. Review and codify the draft rules on preliminary investigation
 - c. Operationalize guidelines for prosecutors and law enforcers/ investigators in evidence-gathering, case-build up, inquest, and preliminary investigation
 - (1) Selection of courts with congested dockets
 - (2) Scanning of cases
 - (3) Case digests

- (4) Resolution by auxiliary judges
- (5) Forensic cases analysis cases

- Atty. Mercado said that one of the goals of the proposed rules for one-time face-to-face hearing is to reduce occasions of confrontation between the parties.

- d. Operationalize expanded court-annexed mediation
- e. Operationalize the DOJ-Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR)

- ASEC Sy mentioned that the issue that needs to be resolved in strengthening the ADR mechanism in the country is the peculiar nature of the Philippine legal system where the country observes both the civil and common law.
- Scott Ciment, ABA-ROLI said that ABA-ROLI is funding a program of the OADR to develop guidelines for arbitrators by setting up an accreditation and standards mechanism.

- f. Establish prosecution level ADR

4. Activities on restorative justice

- a. Review existing policies, procedures and security protocols
- b. Develop responsive rehabilitation, welfare services and integration programs for PDLs and ROs
- c. Upgrade capacity of jail authorities and parole and probation officers in security rehabilitation and integration programs
- d. Adopt a restorative justice-sensitive eDalaw protocol for PDL
- e. Establish community linkages for employment, self-sufficiency and productivity of ROs
- f. Develop a victim-sensitive program for PDLs and ROs.

5. Mechanisms for implementation of the activities

- a. Justice policy and research institution
- b. National justice information system
- c. JSCC

7. Responses from the Development Partners. There was a consensus among the members (USAID, JICA, EU, HSF and British Embassy) on the usefulness of the presentation and how helpful it is on the part of the development partners to identify areas where funding is needed.

C. Other Matters / Action Items

- ASEC Sy asked the members to submit proposals on how to measure the success of the rule of law working group and the projects that the body is implementing.

- Participants are expected to continue with the agency plan aligned with the JSCC Work Plan.
- Presentations to be provided to every meeting participant include the following:
 - JSCC Work Plan
 - A Short History of Preliminary Investigation
 - Issuance Asset Management and Forfeiture
 - Reversal of Legal Fees
 - Modified Rules on Automatic Review of Drug Cases
- **Adjournment.** Assistant Secretary Sy advised that the next PDF will be set probably in June and requested that the representatives inform their principals on what is happening in the PDF. The minutes of the meeting will be circularized by the secretariat.