

PROJECT TITLE : TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ARTICULATORS

PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER : 975

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION : KATILINGBAN SANG MGA IMOL SA SYUDAD SANG ILOILO (KAISOG), INC.

PROJECT LOCATION : ILOILO CITY, PANAY ISLAND, PHILIPPINES

IMPLEMENTING PERIOD : FEBRUARY 2010 – FEBRUARY 2011

PROJECT FUND RECEIVED : ₱ 232,927.95

Project Objectives:

1. To enhance the communication skills of community leaders so they can clearly and concisely present the problems and what urgent actions are needed
2. To develop community leaders who shall have the capacity to undertake rapid community appraisals so they can gather the relevant baseline information and be able to utilize the information for their advocacy and networking actions

Summary of Project Output

A. Trainings for Leader – Articulators

There were 3 trainings and five conference workshops for leader-articulators and had a total output of the following:

- Enhanced the skills as articulators of the 89 leaders from 15 community chapters of KAISOG through the three skills trainings
- Enhanced the skills as articulators of the 148 leaders from 15 community chapters of KAISOG through the five conference workshops
- Updated data gaps specifically the number of residents affected, incidence rate of dengue problem, actual health services at the community and city health agencies, effects of the pollution problem

caused by the initial operations of the dry run of the coal-fired power plant, status of potable water supply in distressed communities

B. Documentation Outputs

- Photo documentation on the issues of : Calajunan Dumpsite, Relocation Areas in the City, Marine Communities in Distress
- Case Studies on the issues of : Health Services in the City, Relocation Sites and the Absence of Basic Facilities/ Services, Calajunan Homes Beside the Dump Site, Marine Communities and the Lives of Small Fisherfolks

Context of Project Implementation

This project was implemented in the context of the national and local elections (May 2010) which meant that the articulators' training of the project was achieved in two time frames : *first*, prior to the May 2010 elections where the Community Leaders came up with the Advocacy Election Agenda presented to the candidates during the campaign period and *second* , after the new local officials elected have assumed office and the Urban Poor Peoples' Agenda (on an issue to issue basis) was again presented during the dialogues.

In the context of the implementation, an urgent health problem arose from the very high and alarming incidence rate of dengue fever in the months of June – August. This issue became the unifying concern in the general problem of health and malnutrition which this project included in its implementation.

Community leaders selected for the series of trainings were men and women mostly officers in the local community chapters of KAISOG in the identified communities and have been participant to the previous lobbying and concerted actions of KAISOG in the previous years. This project however also identified potential leaders who can be developed as speakers in the future.

The series of trainings were ladderized based on the needs of KAISOG and the pre-identified problems of the leaders as articulators:

- A. Seminar – Workshop : Community Problem Tree – which focused on identifying priority community issues, having a unified framework for understanding the multitude of problems and identifying major issues and causes;

- B. Speakers' Training – conducted to resolve the needs of the leaders as articulators, come up with a quick data gathering action plan, and enhance their skills in identifying the various objectives which an articulator should have in mind as he/she speaks in different venues;
- C. Seminar – Workshop on Effective Lobbying / Advocacy Techniques – specifically, this training was meant to address needs for techniques in data presentation, techniques in lobbying among various peoples, organizations, agencies, developing and updating data tools which is a necessary tool for articulators, and time management
- D. Conference – Workshops on: Health Situation and the Urgent Problem of Dengue, Marine Communities in Distress , Relocation Areas in Distress , the Impact on Health and Environment of the Calajunan Open Dump Site, and the Coal-fired Power Plant as it Impacts on the City – specifically designed as venue for planning and role playing of participants who shall also be the articulators in the ensuing dialogues

A. Seminar – Workshop : Community Problem Tree

While the basic problems of lack of income, lack of jobs, lack of basic social services (health services, potable water, good roads, sewerage system, etc.) hold true across all depressed communities, this activity however wanted to focus on the mobilizing issues at hand and how to articulate the community-based problem and alternative matrix.

The activity identified priority concern/s of each community, which is the most urgent issue at hand and has the potential for unifying a significant number of residents who can be mobilized to attend community meetings and dialogues. At the same time, local community zone leaders were identified to assist the community leaders in working out the signing of petition papers and leading community discussions.

A common problem identified was the projected rise in the incidence of the dengue fever which was expected to hit the city in the rainy months of June and July. In the past year, Iloilo City have had very high incidence rates of dengue fever compared to other cities in the nation.

The seminar workshop identified one doable for the local government which shall be the lobbying point : *the allocation of fund from the city's budget which should be spent for subsidizing (in full or a significant amount thereof) the high cost of blood testing and blood transfusion.*

At this point, the workshop was grouped on a per community basis to identify mobilizing urgent issues of each community.

The riverside communities identified the threat to their livelihood as the demolition of houses along the Batiano and Iloilo Rivers are just waiting for fund release for the rehabilitation of these

rivers. At the same time, the dredging of these rivers will once again destroy the natural fish habitat and result to a huge loss of income for the small fisherfolks.

The relocatees (those who have been victims of demolitions in the previous years and who were relocated to relocation areas in the communities of San Isidro and Lanit (district of Jaro, Iloilo City), Sooc (district of Mandurriao and Arevalo) are unanimous in saying that the lack of good roads, lack of sewerage system, heavy flooding, and the resulting sickness during these floods are the most urgent issues.

KAISOG provided inputs on the threat to everyone posed by the coal-fired power plant and the urgent need to disseminate information on this matter.

As a problem identifying venue, the participants were at the foremost asked to list down all activities in their communities, identify which are interrelated, identify principal cause/s (asking the why question). They were then asked to identify which problem can most probably mobilize the people in the community to be active participants in the action plan.

This training was a pre requisite for the ensuing trainings as it was the venue for coming up with a common understanding of the problems, identifying the major ones, and drawing up alternatives.

B. Speakers' Training

This activity focused on enhancing the participants' skills as speakers in small groups, in community mass meetings, in dialogues, in KAISOG's city wide regular meetings where each chapter is requested to present a community situational assessment, and in fora or other such venues. Typically, KAISOG's leaders are invited to discuss the basic problems of the urban poor depressed communities, discuss current issues and problems and the demands and need, discuss and present the para-legal framework and concepts when dealing with basic issues as demolition, etc. In addition, they are also tasked with the important work of networking and building friendly and helping relationships with community officials and other peoples' organizations.

At the onset of the training, KAISOG presented its discussion papers and primers on the community issues identified during the first training. This provided basic information and was a starting point in identifying data gaps (especially community level data).

To address the problem on data gaps, there was a workshop on community level data gathering techniques (quick data gathering at the minimum time possible), collating a short list of what data to get from whom, and filling up the basic information sheet. An outline for a case study was presented and a sample community profile was the subject for a round table discussion.

The participants, using the community profiles they brought with them, then accomplished the data chart provided which lists down national, sectoral, city wide and community level data.

The training then focused on using available information at the data chart and identifying priority data which should be firmly grasped by community leaders and/or speakers .

The training then focused on identifying target audience of speaker, an important factor when delivering a message. This was correlated with objectives and target outputs.

At the last part of the training, participants were asked to deliver messages/speeches for different types of gatherings. A critique then followed each speech.

As follow-up , participants identified the need for issue based speakers' workshops and specific training on delivering alternative programs.

C. Seminar – Workshop on Effective Lobbying / Advocacy Techniques

Most community leaders are participant to lobby work, dialogues, and advocacy work on specific issues (demolition and promoting the rights of displaced marginalized victims, lobbying for additional fund allocation for the specific problems of the urban poor communities such as health, potable water and other basic social services, relocation areas which conform to the basic requisites of a relocation areas as provided for by the law, etc.). While most community leaders have had experiences with these kind of venues, lobbying and advocacy work demand a firm grasp of short term and long term demands, techniques for a clear presentation and floor tactics among other skills that need to be enhanced.

The activity started with a workshop on past dialogues with the city government or local government units or agencies and a comparison of the results of the versus set target objectives. KAISOG's leaders has had extensive experiences with this kind of activities. The workshop result pointed to one positive point: the participants have very clear concepts of what objectives were pre-identified and what were the actual outcomes / results of the dialogues.

The training then proceeded on inputs on data presentation techniques with actual workshops on presentation of actual data on the impact on health caused by the pollution after the dry run operations of the coal fired power, local data on how expensive the dengue blood laboratory tests are, and community data on the actual status of relocation areas in the city. All participants were involved in the fish bowl exercises which followed.

All activities were time bound as this is one common problem often met by the leaders-articulators.

The leaders were asked to deliver speeches on the presentation of demands and alternatives. Role playing simulated different venues where leaders are articulators for discussion, during dialogues, during networking with other leaders and organizations.

The training also provided inputs for techniques in identifying key points in discussions which addresses the problem of digressing from the main agenda. Again, the fish bowl exercise was an effective venue for enhancing their skills in listening and summarizing main points.

D. Conference – Workshops on Five Major Concerns of the Urban Poor Communities

The series of one day conference – workshops on the five major concerns were conducted as a venue to prepare the leaders as articulators in the dialogues and fora/discussion meetings which are the usual activities in the lobbying/campaign plan of the organization set for the latter half of the year.

Workshop results of the previous trainings were provided in this training – the data matrix chart as it had been updated during the previous trainings, discussion papers on the five major issues, data presentation tools, and objectives and target results.

The Health and Nutrition Problem was packaged in the forum and discussion meetings on the dengue problem. However, the workshop was more on identifying **doables**. Thus the workshop identified the city's approved budget and the emergency fund which can be allocated and what medical and laboratory expenses should be subsidized by the city government.

The actual dialogue on this issue had one positive result : the allocation of the city's emergency budget for laboratory expenses subsidy for the indigents of the city.

The *Conference - Workshop on Marine Communities* identified specific areas of privately-owned fishpond areas which had usurped large areas of the river beds specifically in the Community of Sooc (district of Arevalo). This was an important data in identifying problem areas of the economic dislocation of the small fisherfolks. At the same time the workshop also came up with listings of mangrove areas threatened by the ongoing haphazard river dredging. The role playing for the dialogue however was more on the problem of articulating key points on the negative impact of privately owned fishpond areas and presenting specific data on its impact on the riverside communities. The articulators came up with bull points to assist them in steering the dialogue towards the recognition of the local government units and agency with regards to the non-regulation of these fish ponds.

The actual dialogue with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources resulted to the acknowledgment of the fishpond problem. The haphazard dredging of the river of the river was

acknowledged. The city natural resources office recognized the threat on the mangrove in the riverside.

The *Planning – Workshop on the Status of Relocation Areas* identified relocation areas which are heavily flooded and has no potable water supply. These problems and the bunk style one room relocation building was also a clear example of the neglect of the basic needs of the victims of demolition. The activity was more focused on developing bull points for speakers to ensure that the demands and rights of the victims of demolition as provided for by the law is clearly articulates. The activity posted major provisions in the Urban Development Housing Act which protects the rights and promotes the welfare of the victims of demolition.

The dialogue with the local government recognized the plight of the relocates in the heavily flooded relocation areas. Likewise, the city government backed down in the repayment scheme for the relocation areas.

KAISOG led the formation of a broad alliance on the campaign to stop the operations of the coal-fired power plant situated in a heavily populated district of the city. In this context, *the Conference –Workshop on the Negative Impact of the Coal-fired Power Plant was more of developing the skills of the leader as articulators who can engage in the tit-for-tat on this issue.* Primers and discussions papers were the reference materials and the workshop was more on developing the skills of speakers to focus on major points.

The *Conference-Workshop on the Open Dump Site in Calajunan, Mandurriao* presented case studies of open dump sites in other places and its negative impact on the health and environment of the people in the adjacent communities. However, the workshop had to focus on developing data gathering tools and updating the data charts.

E. Project Administration, Meetings and Evaluation

The training project was implemented from February 2010 – February 2011. KAISOG's Council of Leaders approved the timetable and approved the campaign plan on the five major issues.

The Executive Committee and the volunteer staff held project planning meetings every quarter (February, May, August) for detailed planning. They identified participants to the project activity.

The skills trainings were held from February to June 2010. All conference workshops and dialogues were held from August to November. Evaluation meetings were held in January - February 2011.