

Report on the IATI Workshop, March 2009

Prepared by IBON International

Venue of the Workshop:

The IATI Workshop was conducted as part of the “Regional CSO Workshop on Aid Effectiveness: Initiating Implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action”, held in Manila, Philippines from March 9 to 11, 2009. ¹

Participants:

32 CSO representatives from 16 countries². Although the Workshop/Consultation was for the East and Southeast Asian Region, there were some participants from South Asia who were in Manila at the time to attend another consultation, initiated by UNDP, that was to take place on March 12 to 13.

Materials Used for the Workshop:

1. Power Point Presentation – prepared by IATI ³
2. Discussion Guide Forms prepared by IBON International⁴
 - a. Table on Availability and Accessibility of Aid Information for CSOs
 - b. Table on barriers/Issues and Recommendations on Availability and Accessibility of Aid Information for CSOs
 - c. Table on Publishing Aid Information for CSOs

Conduct of the Workshop:

- ❖ Orientation on IATI’s background, principles and overall objectives as well as for conducting the workshop discussed by Josephine Dongail (Head of RoA Secretariat) using the Power Point Presentation of IATI (Attachment 2).
- ❖ A question was raised about the possibility of a donor-led process and the advisability of having a more independent approach. It was explained that the IATI process was superior to mere parallel processes because of its multistakeholder character.
- ❖ Participants were divided into country groups that had worked together in previous workshops with the exception of a separate group for media practitioners.⁵
 1. Papua New Guinea (1), Fiji (1), Timor Leste (2), New Zealand (1), Sri Lanka (1), China (1)
 2. Vietnam (1) , Cambodia (1), Indonesia (3), Mongolia (1), Nepal (1)
 3. Japan (1), Thailand (1), China (1), Vietnam (1), Philippines (1)
 4. Philippines (7)

¹ See Attachment 1, “Program” (particularly Day 2, March 10,2009)

² See Attachment 2, “List of CSO Participants”

³ See Attachment 3, “IATI CSO Consultation Workshop”

⁴ See Attachment 4, “Discussion Guides Prepared by IBON Int’l”

⁵ Note: The number of consultation participants and workshop participants does not tally because the South Korean CSO representative was taken ill.

5. Media- Philippines (2), China (1)

- ❖ The responses of the workshop participants were guided by the Discussion Guides.

Brief Summary of Workshop Results:

A. Responses to the Discussion Guide on Availability and Accessibility of Information Needs

The following are the identified information needs and concerns and their corresponding present level of accessibility:

- a. Very Accessible – none were classified as very accessible
- b. Fairly Accessible – information on donor backgrounds and project impacts, aid commitments and disbursements (but not in all countries), strategy papers and donor consultancies
- c. Totally inaccessible – prior knowledge , policy and bidding documentation on projects
- d. Fairly Inaccessible - information on conditionalities

Media participants made the following recommendations: systematic generation of information, more detailed assessments of project impacts, status of assets after project completion, explicit listing of ‘legal’ shortcuts’.

B. Responses to the Discussion Guide on Issues and Recommendations on Availability and Accessibility of Information

Issues: lack of knowledge/capacity to access information (including fund limitations), lack of detail of available information, difficulties in tackling technical language, lack of mechanisms for transparency and information dissemination, limited level of CSO participation.

Recommendations: enhanced transparency and channels for multi-stakeholder participation, creation of websites and interactive databases, stronger donor efforts to ensure that CSOs understand their policies and guidelines, increased CSO capacity to engage with government agencies.

C. Responses to the Discussion Guide on the Publication of Aid Information identified specific types of information and preferred methods of dissemination.

The workshop stretched over its allotted time due to participants’ enthusiasm in recording their responses.

The Synthesis of Workshop Responses is contained in the document “Attachment 5, Synthesis of Workshop Responses” Actual responses to each Discussion Guide are contained in Attachments 6 to 8.

