

PHILSSA



2014



The past year saw PHILSSA emerge as a recognized humanitarian emergency response network, demonstrating its capacity to do rapid assessment using the tool it has developed, and harnessing the collective efforts and distinct competence of its members in providing immediate response in a complementary way, as how a network should.

Through its “Sikad Mindoreño” project in the municipalities of Baco and Naujan, Oriental Mindoro as well as “Angat, Calamianes!” project in Northern Palawan, PHILSSA demonstrated practical social mobilization strategies that effectively engaged affected families in their post disaster recovery. These helped them to be actively involved in the soonest possible time in their recovery and rehabilitation with their dignity intact, and not as victims merely waiting for response from either government or private sector. This is what PHILSSA means by development that promotes inclusive and sustainable communities in the context of disaster risk reduction and management or DRRM.

In all these, PHILSSA remained cognizant of its role in addressing the needs of its member organizations through continuing capacity-building programs towards enhanced organizational management, leadership formation, as well as honing of skills in both program and project planning along the “12-6-5” approach.

PHILSSA has remained true to its commitment to evolve an urbanization framework along its twelve (12) thematic issues for intervention, using six (6) key strategies and methodologies, involving five (5) levels of engagement or governance – model-building at the community/barangay level, local engagement at the city/municipal level, consortium-building in the regional level, policy advocacy for urban development reforms at the national level, as well as networking and solidarity work at the International level.

After twenty-seven years since its founding in 1988, PHILSSA has grown, to this day, from eighteen (18) members to sixty (60) NGOs across Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and has produced a number of publications that capture the insights and learnings of its members in project implementation and advocacy/policy reform work.

Let us not be deterred by the challenges ahead, but rather continue to be emboldened by the nurturing desire and capacity to lay down the foundations, be it one model at a time, towards sustained peace in a just and prosperous Philippines. Guided by our faith in a Supreme Being and in the goodness of one another, we can accomplish much, as long as we continue to hope.




Rosemarie Herrera
Chair
PHILSSA

*M*essage
from the *Chair*



Vision-Mission Statement

PHILSSA envisions itself as a partnership network and resource center of committed and competent social development practitioners who advocate and work towards an inclusive, transformative and sustainable urbanization with preferential option for poor communities.

Goals

PHILSSA aims to:

1. Strengthen capacities of member-NGOs on **good NGO governance**;
2. Enhance **sustainability** of the network and its member-NGOs in terms of finance, leadership and other capacities;
3. Build **multi-stakeholder partnership models** for delivery of integrated social services for poor communities; and
4. Promote a **policy environment** that enables inclusive, transformative and sustainable urbanization.

Principles

PHILSSA shares the following principles as a network:

Autonomy – PHILSSA recognizes and strengthens the independence of NGOs, including their right to self-determination and self-governance, as long as the network’s commonly-defined values and aspirations are not negated;

Subsidiarity – PHILSSA, in exercising the tenet of sustainable development of “thinking globally, acting locally” acknowledges the competence and expertise of partners to carry out initiatives at their appropriate levels;

Collegiality – PHILSSA is a member-driven network, thus management is collective and democratic, putting weight on co-ownership, mutual responsibility and shared identity, and assuring partners of quality participation and equitable representation;

Complementation – PHILSSA members, in practicing subsidiarity and collegiality, must necessarily build on each other’s strengths and reinforce one another’s endeavors and accomplishments.

PHILSSA Urbanization Framework and Strategy (12-6-5 Approach)

As a national NGO network working on urbanization, PHILSSA is evolving an urbanization framework and strategy focusing on twelve (12) thematic concerns, using six (6) key strategies and methodologies, involving five (5) levels of engagement.

A. Twelve (12) Thematic Concerns

- A.1. Land Use and Security of Tenure
- A.2. Housing
- A.3. Basic Community Services
- A.4. Environment
- A.5. Employment and Productivity
- A.6. Population Management
- A.7. Health and Education
- A.8. Protection for Vulnerable Sectors
- A.9. Food Security and Nutrition
- A.10. Participatory Governance
- A.11. Culture and Values
- A.12. Public Safety (including disaster risk reduction and management)

B. Six (6) Key Strategies and Methodologies

- B.1. Capacity Building
- B.2. Research
- B.3. Engagement with Government (both Local and National)
- B.4. Advocacy
- B.5. Multi-Stakeholder Partnership
- B.6. Model-Building

C. Five (5) Levels of Engagement

- C.1. Model-Building in the Community Level
- C.2. Local engagement in the City Level
- C.3. Consortium-Building in the Regional Level
- C.4. Advocacy for Urban development and Related Policy Reforms in the National Level
- C.5. Networking and Solidarity Work in the International Level



PHILSSA History

Laying the Foundation (1988-1990)

After the peaceful EDSA revolution in 1986, with the opened democratic spaces for citizen participation and increased funding for development and reform work, many non-government organizations (NGOs) sprouted to maximize these opportunities to pursue their social agenda and development initiatives. However there were also fly-by-night groups abusing these opportunities dubiously for political and economic gains. Thus legitimate and development-oriented NGOs saw the need for a common social development framework and code of ethics to govern them and identify them from the fly-by-night groups. They also saw the need to coordinate their efforts to rebuild the nation, re-configure social structures and bring about genuine change. *They then thought of forming a new network of support service NGOs, based mostly in urban centers and focused on urban development, that would share this common social development framework and code of ethics.*

In 1988, a pioneer group (Karina David of HASIK, Me-an Ignacio of FDA, Hec Soliman of BATAS, Karen Tanada of ADVOCATE, together with Cristina Liamson and Dinky Soliman of PHILDHRRRA) had long discussions and came up with a draft *social development code of ethics*. This became the basis of unity for what was to become the **Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA)**.

A founding convention was held on May 30, 1988 in Ateneo de Manila University where 18 NGOs officially founded PHILSSA and approved its Social Development Code of Ethics. The first set of officers was composed of Karina David as Chair, Corinna Lopa as Secretary, Precy Ramo-Confiado as Treasurer, Hec Soliman as Legal Officer and Me-an Ignacio and Karen Tanada as Training Officers. PHILSSA held its first Congress on October 27, 1989, where its constitution and by-laws were approved. PHILSSA was formally registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as a non-stock non-profit organization on February 14, 1990. From 1988-1990, Corinna Lopa acted as one-woman secretariat.

Building Up the Structure and PHILSSA's Secretariat, Programs and Linkages (1990-1995)

The early 1990s were years of building the structure of PHILSSA in terms of membership, programs and networking.

Full operations started in June 1990 with Me-an Ignacio as first National Coordinator of the PHILSSA secretariat. She led the development of PHILSSA operations, systems and programs:

- Clarified and developed the role and mandate of the network secretariat,
- Published first issue of the *Salindiwa* newsletter in 1991,
- Conducted first Strategic Assessment and Planning in July 1992,
- Introduced the members' report card system,
- Studied the salary and benefit packages of member-NGOs, and
- Initiated network meetings, reflections and activities in regional and national levels. From the initial membership of 18 NGOs in 1988, PHILSSA has grown to 50 members in 1995.

In April 20, 1991, PHILSSA formally launched the PHILSSA Urban Poor Consortium (PUPC). PUPC played a major role in lobbying for the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) of 1992. Upon the passage of UDHA, PHILSSA and PUPC started monitoring activities and advocacy campaigns for its proper implementation.

PHILSSA also facilitated NGO-PO dialogues with the government on the urban poor issues and concerns, such as:

- Repeal of PD 772
- Passage of the National Shelter Finance bill
- Lobby for Department of Housing bill
- Full implementation of UDHA

PHILSSA led the formation of the District 2 Consortium (D2C) and the District 2 Base Alliance (D2BA), and the implementation of the Payatas Environment Development Program (PEDP), all in the Quezon City. PHILSSA was also involved in the Mega-Cities Project and served as secretariat to Philippine NGOs participating in the UN Summit on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey.

In the period, PHILSSA was active in the National Coordinating Council on the Local Government Code (LGC) and facilitated regional and provincial consultations on the LGC.

PHILSSA was also involved in coalition-building on broad issues such as social development (caucus of Development NGO Networks – CODE-NGO), environment (Green Forum), gender (Women Alliance on National Development – WAND) and peace (National Peace Commission – NPC). Karina David was the first Chair of CODE-NGO.

PHILSSA also participated in the establishment of NGO-managed funding mechanisms such as the Philippine-Canadian Partnership for Human Resource Development (PCHRD), Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE), Foundation for Sustainable Society Inc (FSSI), and Urban Research Consortium (URC).