

NEDA Gains/Benefits in the Implementation of IDAP For the Period January 2008 to December 2009

This is a brief report on the gains/benefits of NEDA in the implementation of the Integrity Development Action Plan (IDAP) for the period January 2008 to December 2009. The report is categorized according to the IDAP measures.

IDAP Measure – Prevention

The conduct of pre-qualification and screening of applicants, together with the administration of the appropriate entrance examination; and conduct of competency based job analysis to determine the set of knowledge, skills, and personal characteristics required for the positions, are strictly implemented by NEDA. This provides an effective mechanism for hiring the most qualified and suitable candidates for NEDA positions.

The Administrative Staff of NEDA requires all rank-and-file to submit Performance Evaluation Report (PER) every semester. The PER forms part of the required documents for the promotion of the rank-and-file to the next higher position.

IDAP Measure – Education

The NEDA Director-General signed Office Circular No. 01-2009 dated 19 May 2009 – Adopting the Code of Conduct for the Officials and Employees of the NEDA.

A number of NEDA officials and employees have already confirmed, manually in writing as well ***on-line*** (a system which facilitates the sending of the code to the email address of every official/employee and provides a confirmation link), that they have read and understood the Code and therefore commit to observe the rules prescribed therein.

The code is also integrated in the NEDA ***e-orientation system*** or one which provides newly hired personnel on-line instruction and information about NEDA.

Other NEDA offices likewise conducted staff development workshop on Moral Renewal Action Plan (MRAP) and IDAP, including confirmation-signing of the code.

Said processes raised staff awareness of the content and role of the code, as well as provided helpful and clear guidance on a range of issues that arise in conducting official duties.

IDAP Measure – Deterrence

The Development Information Staff set up a mechanism (NEDA e-Forum) where employees can air complaints or comments on agency policies or practices.

To ensure transparency in procurement, there is strict compliance with the provisions of RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Act by members of the NEDA Bids and Awards Committee (NBAC).

IDAP Measure – Partnership

There is a continuous operation and maintenance of NEDA online services through the NEDA website for access by the public. NEDA website also provides links with other government agencies and donor partners. NEDA also published press releases on the results of major consultation/programming meetings with various bilateral and multilateral donor partner agencies. The website is continuously updated as well, thus providing timely and relevant issues/readings. Some of the gains pertaining to this measure are as follows:

The National Planning and Policy Staff (NPPS) of NEDA regularly updates the one-pager NEDA Weekly Updates (NWU) and uploads this every Wednesday to the NEDA Website (http://www.neda.gov.ph/econreports_dbs.asp). Because of this regular public release of selected economic indicators that have been reported by the various data producers such as the National Statistics Office, National Statistical Coordination Board, Bangko Sentral ng Philipinas, Philippine Stock Exchange, etc., telephone inquiries on the statistics have been greatly minimized, freeing up man-hours for the technical staffs who could now spend more time on policy researches and analyses. It also enabled the public to appreciate that the NEDA is not a data generator but is one of the many data users. This is very important to emphasize to the public because it is one way of telling them that the Philippine Statistical System remains independent in producing the statistical data requirements of the government and other researchers. As such, integrity of Philippines data is maintained.

The Trade, Industry and Utilities Staff (TIUS) of NEDA prepared the flowchart for processing of requests for Duty Exemption under the Last Clause of the Last Paragraph of Section 105 of the Tariff and Customs Code, as amended. Proponents were able to access information on the procedures and documentary requirements through the NEDA website. Given this, proponents who were able to comply with the required documents upon filing of their requests with the NEDA have increased. As a result, time spent for preparing letters requesting for additional documents, and responding to queries was reduced.

Other actions taken by NEDA under Partnership are: a) enlisting participation of private sector and civil society in the NEDA-Board Regional Development Committee (RDCom); b) tapping international development agencies like the ADB for the NEDA-ADB Technical Assistance on Provincial and Local Planning and Expenditure Management (PLPEM)-Phase II, and UNDP and AusAID for the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate

change adaptation in development and physical planning; and institutionalizing participation of stakeholder agencies--DILG and DBM in the NEDA-Board RDCOM.

These partnerships with the private sector, international development agencies and stakeholder agencies led to the following results: a) provided avenue for transparency in policy formulation in line with NEDA's thrust for good governance; b) enhanced collaboration on vital aspects of regional and local development planning; and c) promoted financial transparency and credibility inasmuch as we comply with the partner international development agencies' (ADB and UNDP) financial management system in the disbursement and liquidation of project support funds.

Moreover, as a lead agency in coordinating compliance with International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), NEDA maintains advocacy measures in the promotion and protection of human rights. The promotion, respect, protection, and fulfillment of human rights are congruent to prevention and crusade against corruption.