CODE NGO
Networking. Empowering. Transforming.

DECODING CONVERSATIONS

COMPILATION OF THE SYNTHESES OF CODE-NGO's COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE FORUMS IN 2014-2016

Sustainable Development Goals

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Decoding Conversations: Compilation of the Syntheses of CODE-NGO's Communities of Practice Forums in 2014-2016
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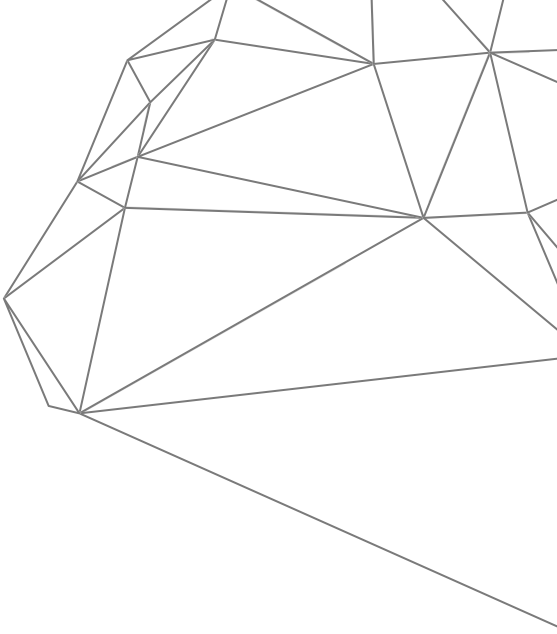

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INTRODUCTION

"Decoding Conversations" was an offshoot of the Strengthening the Capacity of Philippines CSOs Project, implemented by a consortium of civil society organizations (CSOs) to which the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) was a part of. The 3-year project led by Ayala Foundation and funded by USAID aimed to build the capacities of 120 CSOs for them to be more sustainable and accountable. Specifically, it covered organizational development (OD) interventions on Governance and Leadership Development, Planning and Strategic Management, Resource Mobilization and Development, Program Design, Implementation and Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (PDIMME), Financial Management and Administrative and Personnel Management.

Various modes of learning were utilized for capacity building: formal training, mentoring, peer-to-peer learning (through communities of practice via social media), internships and provision of templates. As the project's technical partner for building a Community of Practice (CoP) among participating CSOs, CODE-NGO launched the 'CSOCommunity' site, an online community and discussion forum on organizational development issues confronting Philippine non-profits. The site was meant to allow exchanges on good practices, tips and techniques on OD matters for the participating CSOs of the project.

In 2016, CODE-NGO's Knowledge Development and Management (KDM) Program continued to facilitate more meaningful learning exchanges through online forums on "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Transforming our World"; and "SDGs for the Environment". These were via the CODE-NGO Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/caucusofdevelopmentngonetworks) and were co-organized with the Advocacy Program. Resource persons were invited to share their expertise on the topics and the discussions were summarized and shared through the CODE-NGO website, e-Newsletter and Facebook page.

To make better use of the syntheses of these online and face-to-face discussions, this compilation was pursued and in such a way that the reader can easily understand the development concepts and principles delved on in each topic by transforming the text to information graphics or infographics. To be abreast with the current communication trends and changing landscape of capturing an audience, it is good to explore and adopt more creative and innovative methods to process and share knowledge. May the 10 infographics presented here be able to help CSOs in one way or another as they strive to be more effective stewards of social development in the Philippines.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Resource Person: Patricia Sarenas, MINCODE Chairperson

What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

The new global framework, now called the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, represents a historic opportunity to catalyse the urgent and targeted action needed to help us achieve our vision of an equitable, peaceful and sustainable world, in which all people live with dignity.

17 goals were adopted at the UN Summit for Sustainable Development held in New York on October 25, 2015.

The 17 Global Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combatting inequality within and among countries, preserving the planet, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion are linked to each other and are interdependent.

What is the responsibility of the UN system in the SDGs?

The 169 member states who signed on to the agenda agreed to report on their implementation of the SDGs every five years. Annually, 20 or so member states render their Voluntary National Report (VNR) to the UN High Level Policy Forum (HLPF) for monitoring.

The UN bodies will also handle specific goals that are their area of concern.

As in the MDGs, the UN member states just made the declaration to commit to implementing the 17 SD goals, but there really are no clear sanctions for nations that will get "failing marks" at the end of the 15th year.

How did we transition from MDGs to SDGs?

The UN has conducted the largest consultation programme in its history to gauge opinion on what the SDGs should include.

The open working group, with representatives from 70 countries, had its first meeting in March 2013 and published its final draft, with its 17 suggestions, in July 2014. The draft was presented to the UN general assembly in September 2015. Member state negotiations followed, and the final wording of the goals and targets, and the preamble and declaration that come with them, were agreed in August 2015.

Did we achieve our MDG targets?

As of the time of the online forum, the final reckoning hasn't been done yet. The MDG Report 2015 may be accessed from http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20Summary%20web_english.pdf.

Will the indicators for the MDGs automatically be part of the indicators of the new SDGs?

There's some "levelling-up" to address the gaps in the implementation of some of the MDGs.

How will Rio+20 work with SDG, as it was before the end of 2015?

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, 192 UN member states agreed to establish an intergovernmental working group to design Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a successor of the MDGs. This working group played a big role in drawing up the 17 goals.

RIO+20
United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Aren't some of the goals and timeline of the SDGs too ambitious?

Yes, most of the goals are ambitious.

But to "save the people and the planet" we need to set higher goals.

Clear and accurate data will be needed to track progress and there are many efforts globally to make data-gathering more people-friendly.

How can we ensure that no one will be left behind in the SDGs?

All development players must play a role in identifying the most vulnerable people/sectors/communities/countries and purposively take action to respond to urgent problems of "exclusion" - in all its forms.

Each of us must play a role - to raise awareness of CSOs and their partner sectors/communities, including our allies in local government units, about the SDGs. CODE-NGO will roll-out an advocacy and action program on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Among the 17 goals, what do you think should be prioritized in the Philippines?

While all goals are important, goal no. 1 of "ending poverty in all its forms" is not no. 1 without a reason.

Poverty remains to be deep and pervasive in most poor countries.

By signing the "Transforming Our World" (by our official delegates), the Philippines is now bound to implement the 2030 Agenda and all its 17 indicators.

How will these SDGs shape our future strategic directions in the CSO community?

The SDGs cover many areas where CSOs are already working on. We just need to assess where we are at vis-a-vis the global indicators as well as in the "customized" indicators that we (government, CSOs, private sector) will be setting.

Next Steps for CODE-NGO

1. Utilize available resources from various sources (government, CSOs, business, etc.).
2. Each of us must play a role - to raise awareness of CSOs and their partner sectors/communities, including our allies in local government units, about the SDGs.
3. Be more involved in the monitoring of the Philippine Development Plan, the regional development plans and the local comprehensive development plans to ensure that these are aligned with and support the SDGs.
4. Let's all remember that the agenda is Our Agenda, wherever we are - in the next 15 years.

LET'S TALK PLANET

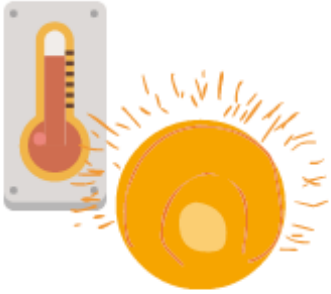
Resource Person: Ayeen Karunungan, Environmentalist

What is Climate Action?

Climate action is taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. It includes mitigation and adaptation efforts.

CLIMATE ACTION IS GOAL 13 IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Current Situation of Climate Change and the UN Negotiations



We are breaking heat records every month. March 2016 was the 11th hottest consecutive month on record. The world is only getting warmer and warmer.

What are specific initiatives for climate action? Why is it "in" now?

MITIGATION

Mitigation is the curbing of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, especially of carbon.

ADAPTATION

Adaptation is being able to adapt to climate impacts.

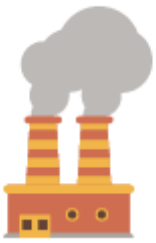
THE PARIS AGREEMENT IN NEW YORK

At least 175 countries signed the Paris Agreement in New York on April 22, 2016.

It is a big step for climate action. Negotiations will continue to iron out details of the agreement. There were also negotiations in May and in November 2016.

"Reduce, Re-use, Recycle" is part of climate action, especially if we take into consideration the carbon emissions of landfills.

Does the Philippines has its own set of specific initiatives/ targets for climate action?



Yes, we submitted what we call the nationally determined contribution (NDC) to the United Nations. The NDC is our commitment to climate action. We committed to 70% carbon mitigation by 2030*

It is "in" now because we now feel the impacts of climate change and we now know we have to act fast. We have very little window to ensure we do not reach a dangerous level of global warming.

*But all conditional. Conditional means that we said we can only do it if we get financing from other countries.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to research, "The print and paper industry accounts for only 1.1% of global carbon dioxide emissions." Carbon footprint of papers are low.

However, it is the cutting of trees that affect us. Trees/forest covers are carbon sinks, they take in carbon dioxide. The cutting of trees for paper production does harm as there will be less trees to take our carbon emissions.

How do we engage LGU and civil society in making them conscious of the SDGs as input to their planning?

Awareness and education campaigns are always helpful.

Start now and don't wait for the budget. Campaign for the national government to be more serious in monitoring and regulating the impact of and contributions to carbon emissions like the ones from factories.

Don't forget to campaign against coal power plants.

The Philippines is a great source of renewable energies (e.g. solar, wind, geothermal).

But the government thinks renewable energies are expensive compared to coal, without factoring in its health and environmental impacts.

What can we do as civil society?

HOLD GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTABLE.

After the signing of the Paris agreement, we need to ensure that the commitments are implemented and that's our role, especially since there is no sanction for governments who will not deliver after the Paris agreement. Local government units should also be held accountable.

BE PART OF ALL GOVERNMENT PROCESSES RELATED TO CLIMATE ACTION.

CSOs should be engaged in the planning, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation processes at the local, regional and national levels.

Next Steps for CODE-NGO

1. CODE-NGO should partner with the Church and NGOs and come in at the LGU level. To implement SDG 13 on climate action, the LGUs should understand climate change and the SDGs, and take them seriously.

2. We also have a big role in communications and advocacy. Sharing helpful info on Climate Action to different sectors and collaborating to complement resources to achieve our goals for the environment.

3. Prospectively, important processes which CSOs should engage in are the national (National Economic and Development Authority, Philippine Development Plan for 2016-2022), regional (RDCs) and local (provincial/city/town LGUs) planning, monitoring, and evaluation processes under the new officials elected on May 9, 2016.

4. Remember, we need to act fast if we want to survive. All of the other things we are fighting for will mean nothing if we no longer have land to live in. Climate impacts will be here for the next decades so we must prepare for that, too.

APRIL 22 is EARTH DAY!

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