
OGP AND EITI IN THE PHILIPPINES

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OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

- Multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from government to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and use new technologies to strengthen governance
- To become a member, a country must endorse a high-level Open Government Declaration, draft a country action plan developed with public consultation, and commit to independent reporting on their progress going forward

2011

PH-EITI

PH-OGP

- September 2011 – Launch in New York, Philippines was a founding government partner
- September 2011 – 1st National Action Plan (2012-2013)

PH GOVERNMENT LEARNED ABOUT EITI FROM AN OGP ASSEMBLY

- BK already started EITI at the province level before
- Chamber of Mines also started their own EITI
- It was only when the government bought into the initiative that it took off

- “We can do mining in a better way. I saw the opportunity because I don’t think that you can get mining to stop, especially those who are already there. Maybe you can prevent new players or new tenements or new mines from being opened, but you still have to deal with the existing mining operations. This is an opportunity for us to introduce reforms.” (F.Abad, January 23, 2018).”

2012

PH-EITI

- July – PH-Government issued EO 79
- August – TWG on EITI began its work
- September – MSG held first meetings

PH-OGP

- July 6 – Public Consultation

- Attorney Ronald Recidoro, Vice President of COMP recalls the reaction of members on their initial decision to join the initiative, he said, “You should have heard that meeting. ‘Why?! We’re shooting ourselves in the foot! What if [the revenue payments] don’t match? Whose fault would it be? Ours?’ There was really a huge opposition to the idea but we said that we are putting our foot down and we need to do this (R. Recidoro, personal communication, January 23, 2018).”

2013

PH-EITI

- January – 1st National PH-EITI Conference
- April – Submitted candidature to the International EITI
- May – Philippines was admitted as a candidate country
- November – EO 147 was issued to formally create Philippine EITI

PH-OGP

- March – 1st Self Assessment Report for the Philippines
- Result of the Independent Report Mechanism (2011-2013) – 19 total commitments, 3 completed
- November – Submission of 2nd National Action Plan (2013 – 2015)

LINKING PH-EITI TO A LARGER AUDIENCE

- Extractives is a specific/ niche sector
- Access to other actors and organizations – budget, tax, journalists
- Inclusion of “Initiate transparency in the extractives sector” as a country commitment to the OGP

2014-2015

PH-EITI

- May 2014 – 2nd National PH-EITI Conference
- December 2014 – 1st EITI report
- February 2015 – 3rd National PH-EITI Conference
- December 2015 – 2nd EITI report

PH-OGP

- May 2015 – 2nd Independent Report Mechanism
- November 2015 – 2nd National Action Plan

SHARING OF NETWORK AND RESOURCES

- Funding opportunities
- Gaining new champions/ new partners
- Included “EITI compliance status” as another country commitment

2016 - 2017

PH-EITI

- February 2016 – 4th National PH-EITI Conference
- February 2016 – PH-EITI was honored with the “EITI International Chair Award”
- December 2016 – 3rd PH-EITI report
- May 2017 – 5th National PH-EITI Conference
- October 2017 – EITI Compliant status

PH-OGP

- June 30 – Submission of 4th National Action Plan (2017-2019)

SHARED COMMITMENT TO INSTITUTIONALIZING EITI

- Institutionalization of EITI into a law is a country commitment under the 2017-2019 National Action Plan

- “The EITI compliance has been the sole bright spot for us in 2017”, says Recidoro referring to environmentalist and anti-mining advocate Gina Lopez’s appointment as Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary under new President Rodrigo Duterte in 2016. One of her first orders as DENR Secretary was an audit of mines in the country and subsequent closure orders for 75 mining operations. “[COMP member] companies would now say that we’re the first country to be compliant with the new EITI standard. Everyone is proud. We were just glad that we were there from the start, we didn’t just ride along. You can see a lot of the [COMP members] taking pride in that (R. Recidoro, personal communication, January 25, 2018).”

PRESENT

- COMP admits to having a direct access to Secretary Cimatu. They just declared a responsible mining summit last January 2018.
- Aside from that, there has been the comprehensive tax reform program being undertaken by the legislative. Excise taxes of mining firms were increased from 2% to 4% of gross sales
- The killings of environmentalists, activists, and journalists continue unabated. A lot of these crimes have remained unsolved.