

2. To support the development of small and medium enterprises that create meaningful jobs for both men and women.
3. To strengthen programming in areas related to social development.

CIDA's strategy to foster good governance (point 1) reflects the concerns expressed today around the table and is compatible with the Philippine government's agenda for development. Assistance is delivered through bi-lateral as well as multi-lateral channels. There is a number of governance related programmes run by CIDA, including the *National Commission for the Role of Filipino Women Institutional Support Project*, *Philippines-Canada Environmental and Economic Management Project*, local government support project aimed at building capacity of organisations in the context of state-led decentralisation, a policy training project, and others.³

Edna Keeble asked whether the assumption that poverty reduction and good governance are mutually supportable goals was true. Can programmes aimed at poverty reduction contribute to good governance in the Philippines?

Peachy Cuenca-Forbes (Executive Director, Philippine Development Assistance Program) said that CIDA has been successful in building partnerships. She said that these partnerships (i.e., exchange and training programmes) are key to changing values in the Philippines and contribute to human resource development. They also help long-term development. Overall, the Canadian government's focus on governance as well as the private sector has been successful. Canada is instrumental in providing models, particularly for the NGOs. CIDA should continue working with non-governmental sector, while continuing to have a well established relationship with the government.

2.2. Possible Policy Options and Tools for Canada

Based on its own experience (and history), Canada could assist the Philippines with a range of governance related issues, including:

- Help strengthen "democratic" political culture at all government levels (i.e., the principles of accountability, transparency, public good, etc.). The civil service and the Parliament were singled out as two areas where Canada's ethics could be particularly transferable.
- Share experience with decentralised mode of governance and help develop mechanisms for power sharing.

³ For more details, go to:

http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/webcountry.nsf/asia_e.html and click on the Philippines, Canadian Assistance.