

Conferences and exchange programmes (aimed at training and education) could be among the mechanisms which effectively expose our values. The focus on the development of human resources is especially pertinent to the changing political culture in the Philippines.

There are 6 public and private areas where Canadian expertise (and know-how) could have an especially positive impact:

- electoral reform
- judicial and legal reform
- tax management (collection)
- public finance systems
- reform of the banking sector
- environmental protection

Canada could use its leading edge in Information and Communications Technology as a tool to achieve its policy and programming goals. The use of technology was promoted in tackling corruption, tax management, reform of the electoral and public finance systems as well as the banking sector.

1. GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE PHILIPPINES TODAY

1.1. Introduction

Steven Lee (Chair, Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development) welcomed the participants to the roundtable and expressed his appreciation for their commitment to the development of Canada's foreign policy. He set the goals for the day:

- to share information and views about the current situation in the Philippines
- to examine challenges and opportunities related to good governance
- to identify instruments to promote (and strengthen) good governance, including Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs)
- to identify potential partnerships and synergies
- to explore possible roles for Canada.

In the opening remarks, the Honourable Dr. Rey Pagtakhan M.P., Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific, said that good governance should be at the foundation of every society. In its broader sense, good governance is key to human development and security. It requires adequately developed civil society so that governing responsibilities are shared between the state and the citizens. In a democracy both the division (use) of power and the distribution of common resources, should be aimed at improving the quality of life of all citizens, rather than a self-selected few. To ensure the long-term prosperity of a nation, the people must take an active part in governance (i.e., promoting accountability and transparency of government actions).