

REPORT FROM THE ROUNDTABLE: GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE PHILIPPINES

**March 16, 2001
Ottawa, Ontario**

On March 16, 2001, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development organised a roundtable on Good Governance and the Philippines. Participants examined current political, social and economic conditions, addressed challenges to good governance, and explored Canadian interests and expertise. The Honourable Dr. Rey Pagtakhan M.P. (Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific) participated, along with Canada's Ambassador to the Philippines Robert Collette and other government officials. Haydee Yorac (National Peace Forum) and Eric Batalla (De La Salle University) came from the Philippines. Others included Alicia Natividad (Philippine-Canada Business Council), Nora Angeles (University of British Columbia) and Nilo Cachero (NC Info Management). Steven Lee (Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development) chaired the meeting.

The Roundtable report is divided into two main sections:

1. Good Governance and the Philippines Today
 - 1.1. Introduction
 - 1.2. Two Perspectives from the Philippines
 - 1.3. Challenges to Good Governance and Possible Future Directions
 - 1.4. Synopsis of the Discussion
2. Canadian Expertise and Interests
 - 2.1. The Canadian International Development Agency in the Philippines
 - 2.2. Possible Policy Options and Tools for Canada

Key recommendations:

Canada could assist the Philippines with governance related issues:

- Help strengthen "democratic" political culture at all government levels (i.e., the principles of accountability, transparency, public good).
- Share experience with decentralised mode of governance and help develop mechanisms for power sharing.
- Share experience with the development and delivery of public services.