

Proposal for an ASA project

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Statement of the proposer	
Proposal drawn up by	
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The co-operating partner	
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Speaker's Name	Fr. Max T. Abalos (SVD), Rosemarie Dizon
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Title and subject of the project	
Title	Feasibility Study of an Entrepreneurial Waste Management Project in Cebu City
Country	Philippines
Location	Cebu City, Cebu, Visayas
Proposal for	<input type="checkbox"/> Professionals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Students

Statement of the selection committee	
Letter of intention	
included	0
Not included	0
Read by:	
Accepted	0
Rejected	0
Date	Signature

Closing date
20.08.2002

Statistic

Proposal submitted by
<input type="checkbox"/> an international organisation/ institution
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a German organisation /institution
<input type="checkbox"/> University staff
<input type="checkbox"/> former ASA-participant
year:
host country:
<input type="checkbox"/> proposal submitted by an applicant

Classification of the work and study project (multiple answers possible)
<input type="checkbox"/> Urban development, transport, architecture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Health, prevention, consumer's protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economy, human work and employment
<input type="checkbox"/> Media and information
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural development
<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and human rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable resource management and climate change
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender equality
<input type="checkbox"/> Civil conflict management
<input type="checkbox"/> Civil action and participation
<input type="checkbox"/> Culture
<input type="checkbox"/> Child and youth welfare
<input type="checkbox"/> Agenda 21
<input type="checkbox"/> Others

Short description of the work and study project (to be published in the program catalogue)
Continent: Asia
Country: Philippines
Title: Feasibility Study of an Entrepreneurial Waste Management Project in Cebu City
It is the aim of this study project to receive a well-researched and constitutional feasibility report as to whether or not a decentralised waste recycling network could be implemented by an organisation of scavengers (assisted by the local project partner) in Cebu City, Philippines. The feasibility study is supposed to set the stage for the implementation of an innovative anti-poverty development approach: stabilising the livelihoods of poor scavenger communities and, at the same time, generating revenues for community development measures. The core idea of this 'charitable' business enterprise is to establish a number of garbage compactors at those sites where garbage is either piled up (dump sites) or produced (e.g. hotels, shopping malls, airports). A bigger amount of recyclable materials than possible at the moment could be compacted to smaller volumes and then directly be transported to wholesalers – by circumventing smaller retailers. The feasibility study requires a range of insights into organisational, economic, technical and social conditions with regard to the recycling of waste in the Cebu City region.

Work and study project for
<input type="checkbox"/> Professionals (non academic)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Students
<input type="checkbox"/> South –north-project

Outlines
Number of participants (max. 3): 2
Fields of profession:
Fields of study: Management of Natural Resources, Environmental Engineering, Geography, Political Sciences, (Micro-)Economics
Language skills required: English
Proposal handed in by: Stiftung justiceF, D - Oberhausen

Description of the study project

Title: Feasibility Study of an Entrepreneurial Waste Management Project in Cebu City / Philippines

1. Description of the planned study project, field of activities of the ASA participants, aims to be reached, significance of the project

High population density, lack of technical infrastructure, high levels of waste production and low environmental awareness are affecting Cebu City, the second largest city of the Philippines, capitol of the Visayas region. Environmental issues, and especially garbage, are among the most challenging issues there now. The notorious Smokey Mountain in Manila used to be the largest open dump site in the whole of South-East-Asia. Similar kinds of phenomena have spread to the island of Cebu and other places around the Philippines. The efforts of national, regional and local authorities to resolve these problems have failed as yet. Actually, a nationwide approach to improve the situation in a sustainable way has not been established.

The non-profit organisation JPIC-IDC (<http://jpic-phil.netfirms.com/index.htm>) is involved in development work with so-called scavengers in the Cebu City region since the last decade. Its activities take place in three municipalities in and around this Mega City. JPIC-IDC is dealing directly with around 1.500 squatter families living from collecting waste (scavenging) on open garbage dumps. The characteristics of the people living and working on or next to the dump sites are everywhere the same: These people

- are migrants from different (rural) origins and with different cultural values;
- lack a sufficient educational background;
- don't have access to medical care and other social resources;
- lack livelihood alternatives;
- possess only very limited social network resources (no extended family which could replace the function of nuclear family).

JPIC has tried to improve their socio-economic situation through measures, such as housing programmes, health care, scholarship programmes, awareness and education programmes, such as adult education in combination with livelihood projects, etc. The organisation has managed to improve the scavengers' living situation to a certain extend, but a sustainable development within these communities cannot be ascertained so far. Indeed JPIC-IDC realises that it faces a target group that differs from others (such as farmers and fishers) in a very peculiar way. Analysing the social dimension of scavengers compared to, e.g., fisher communities, we find that their traditional social behaviour – such as reciprocal social exchange – does not influence their attitude towards other community members. Therefore here, we have to deal with a target group that does not accord with typical parameters determining development work (like i.e. with the rural poor). This is one insight after working with them for ten or more years.

A second aspect which we have to face in a changing world of development work, is the significance of economic creativity. Funds are becoming more limited, the typical welfare approach is becoming historical in Asia, and development work and processes are getting more and more incorporated in economic affairs. Countries like the Philippines have to learn to avoid dependence. Nearly twenty years after EDSA, the poor and marginalized in the country are still waiting for People's Power. Therefore, JPIC-IDC has the intention to start new undertakings besides their more traditional fields of activities. It is intending, in cooperation with the German non-profit foundation justiceF (<http://www.justicef.org>), to initiate entrepreneurial activities. By

embarking on a waste management business activity it is sought to create jobs for the scavengers as suppliers on the one hand, and generate profits for the enterprise on the other. 100 percent of the profits (after tax, salaries, further business investments, etc.) are supposed to be reinvested in social developmental projects like education for scavengers' children.

It is the aim of this study project to receive a well-researched and constitutional feasibility report as to whether or not a decentralised garbage recycling network could be implemented by an organisation of scavengers (assisted by the local project partner JPIC-IDC) in Cebu City. So far, the recyclable materials collected by scavengers (paper, tins, plastics etc.) are separated out by hand on the garbage dump, accumulated in big plastic sacs, are intermediately placed in storage next to the scavengers' shacks or besides the street, and finally brought and sold to a retail dealer who eventually sells the recyclable materials to a wholesaler.

The core idea of the business enterprise is to establish a number of garbage compactors at those sites where the garbage is either piled up (the dump sites) or produced (e.g. hotels, shopping malls, airports). In the first case a bigger amount of recyclable materials could be compacted to smaller volumes and then directly be transported to the wholesaler by trucks. In the second case the principle would be the same, but here it would be suitable to accede to agreements with hotel managements, shopping mall companies or airport executives that scavengers dispose of their garbage as part of a comprehensive recycling strategy.

The garbage compactors would be mechanically operated machines provided for by the German partner justiceF. In 2001, justiceF shipped two compactors and one truck to Manila. There is a significant amount of functional but written-off compactors available in the German industry to which justiceF has access. While a number of compactors would be needed in the framework of the project, one or two trucks could suffice if they would be employed efficiently in their daily operations. Anyhow, the design of the business enterprise is such that it will be started off small-scale and accrue slowly, depending on its feasibility and economic viability. A concept for the business enterprise has been drafted and agreed on between the partners.

The following questions outline the proposed feasibility study (not complete):

- Assessing the actual situation: What is the process of garbage management like at the moment? Which stakeholders are involved (scavengers, middlemen, organisations, local and national authorities, junk shop owners, recycling enterprises, customers of recycled materials etc.). Identification of weak points such as low prices for collected materials, exploitation, credit dependence on loan sharks.
- Economic aspects: What is the cash flow structure like? Which amounts of materials accrue (seasonal peaks?), and which prices can be realised? What is the market situation at present (competition, risk-analysis etc.)? Cost-plan for the establishment of the business enterprise, necessary infrastructure, overhead costs, etc.
- Organizational aspects: Who could be potential partners for the business enterprise (local authorities, social and private institutions, airports, hospitals, etc.)? What are national and minimum laws and regulations regarding waste management in the Philippines?
- Technical aspects: Which are the potential collection spots? Is pre-selected waste available? What is the existing equipment in the whole backward supply chain?
- Interviews to be conducted with: Environmental NGOs, municipalities, chamber of commerce, Asian Development Bank, scavengers, wholesalers, potential business partners, etc.

Due to the fact that JPIC staff is too much involved in their daily work a decision has been made to propose this project to the ASA programme. This approach promises a fruitful solution for both parties: JPIC is able and willing to guide this necessary study, and the students will get insights into development work, develop intercultural communication skills on different levels, and contribute to a down-to-earth and innovative livelihood approach. JPIC-IDC will provide professional working conditions and contribute its professional expertise. Accommodation for three months and other services will be organized. Furthermore, JPIC-IDC will provide translators (Cebuano - English), if needed. Through the help of the Executive Director, Fr. Max Abalos, the Assistant Executive Director, Rosemarie Dizon, and the co-worker and main adviser, Fr. Dr. Heinz Kulüke, JPIC-IDC can allocate the necessary assistance and guidance to the German students. Due to the fact that Abalos and Kulüke belong to the staff of the biggest University in the Southern Philippines, University of San Carlos, and JPIC-IDC cooperates with the German Development Service (DED) and justiceF, the student researchers would find potential partners in preparing, realising and evaluating the feasibility study.

Through the experience with other European students who have completed their research work and written their theses with the help of JPIC-IDC, it can be ensured that a realistic basis for the ASA students is provided for. In Germany, justiceF would conduct a weekend workshop in order to inform and prepare the scholars intensively, if required.

2. Period of realisation of the ASA project

The feasibility study should be conducted in the Cebu City region between July and September 2004.

3. Command of language required

The language required is English. Some of the research would have to be accompanied by a translator (provided for by JPIC-IDC).

4. Other requirements of the ASA participants

As usual in this kind of development work, JPIC-IDC prefers courageous young people who are open and curious. Candidates should be willing to watch and learn before assessing the situation. A willingness and ability to firmly understand the local conditions (particularly with regard to scavenging and the local garbage recycling networks) is a prerequisite for conducting the feasibility study successfully.

Some basic knowledge of technical processes as regards garbage recycling would be helpful, as well as the ability to draw up a business plan.

5. Please inform about the field of activities of the co-operating partner, type of organisation, aims and scope, co-operation with other development institutions, previous ASA-projects

As of 18 June, 2001, JPIC-IDC is an independent and charitable organisation under Philippine law. JPIC-IDC is a non-profit, non-stock, non-governmental organization whose membership embodies the institutionalisation of the partnership between the lay and the religious working for integral human development through genuine people empowerment. JPIC-IDC was established in June 1999 when the community based projects of the University of San Carlos (USC) run by the Society of Divine Word (SVD) in Cebu City were transferred to JPIC-IDC due to the change in the composition of the administration. It still maintains close relationships to SVD

(,Steyler Missionare' in Germany with headquarters in St. Augustin) and its institutions.

JPIC-IDC has carried out a number of projects with third-party funds like the German Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ), the German Development Service (DED), the Karl-Kübel-Stiftung (Bensheim), "Ärzte für die Dritte Welt" (Frankfurt), W.P.Schmitz-Stiftung (Düsseldorf), justiceF (Oberhausen) and the city of Harlemmermeer in the Netherlands. It has also done large-scale consultancy work for German (like Karl-Kübel-Stiftung) and Dutch development organisations. JPIC-IDC is directly managed by the Executive Director with the supervision of the Board of Incorporators.

JPIC-IDC as an organization of faith-inspired people, envisions transformed societies and communities that are economically stable and interdependent, politically empowered, culturally authentic, living in peace based on justice, and working for sustainable development in harmony with creation.

The approach taken by JPIC-IDC is holistic and in partnership with the community served. It aims to empowerment and foster self-reliance. The institution also recognizes the indispensability of other approaches when the situation calls for it. To address the complex social realities, JPIC-IDC makes use of the three known approaches or interventions, namely:

- (1) Welfare or Dole-Out Approach – outright giving of aids in emergency situations / events.
- (2) Development/Modernization Approach – utilising the resources of JPIC-IDC and the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) and its network, expertise, skills and technology for service in improving the lot of the people in a given community.
- (3) Participatory/Liberationist Approach – a process of conscientisation on the socio-economic, political, and religious-cultural realities of the poor, with the poor in which the JPIC-IDC learns from them and discerns with them the appropriate response to the given experienced reality. JPIC-IDC commits to be in partnership with the poor towards a self-nourishing, self-sustaining, and self-governing community.

The following strategies are employed by JPIC-IDC to empower people towards liberation (salvation):

- (1) Community Capability Building Sessions (Seminar–Workshops, Meetings); (2) Skills Training; (3) Livelihood Projects; (4) Issue Advocacy Programs; (5) Active Non-Violence Strategies such as: prayer rallies, lobbying, protest actions, street theatre, etc.; (6) Immersion; (7) Exposure; (8) Research; (9) Networking and linking.

In more detailed terms this means inter alia:

- (1) Establishing community based programmes in rural and urban poor areas, especially squatters, fisher folks, and farmers.
- (2) Training community leaders and members.
- (3) Providing formation programmes for community capability building.
- (4) Education Sponsorships for Grade School, High School and College Students in the partner communities.
- (5) Community based Early Childhood Education Programmes for the poor and depressed communities.
- (6) Issue advocacy programmes especially on matters that greatly affect the poor and the marginalized – women, children, etc.
- (7) Promoting integrated services and programmes for the poor involving the family, children, and community in relation to community organisation, human resources development, education, health, nutrition and sanitation, socio- economic, ecology, sustainable farming, income source generation, and others.

- (8) Conducting seminars on peoples' cooperative and eventual formation of People's Cooperative for economic enhancement.
- (9) Housing projects in Inayawan Dump site and Talisay for the Basic Eclessial Community (BEC) members who are poor and marginalised.
- (10) Water Resource Development Project and Integrated Rural Development Project in Balay'g Tiki, Dumanjug, Cebu and Kalangyawon, Carcar, Cebu.
- (11) Establishing micro-credit schemes with targeted community groups.

JPIC-IDC's staff is very experienced in community-based development and anti-poverty work. Appraising the living conditions and the social as well as cultural realities of the people they are working with in a participatory manner is one of the key strategies of their work. Hence it is believed that JPIC-IDC is an extremely suitable organisation to follow an innovative approach to sustainable economic and livelihood development. JPIC-IDC has so far not been part of any ASA-related project.

6. Please point out any motive for drawing up the project proposal referring to your experience, interest and activities

The partnership between justiceF and JPIC-IDC has been established a number of years ago in the framework of the step by step scholarship programme (for further information see http://www.justicef.org/d_proj_02.htm). Co-operation between the two organisations has been extended and intensified in 2002 when a successful housing construction project on Mactan Island near Cebu City was jointly financed, and implemented by JPIC-IDC (with the support of the German Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ), see http://www.justicef.org/d_proj_04.htm). This project also comprised a micro-credit scheme by which the beneficiaries were enabled to set up their own small-scale enterprises and supplement their income. The approval of an ensuing application to the BMZ for 2003/04 is pending.

Due to this project work experience and the building-up of trust and a common vision (mutual visits have repeatedly taken place between 1999 and 2003), JPIC-IDC and justiceF agreed that it will be of importance to further develop promising and innovative approaches towards anti-poverty work. In this case, it is not intended to change the kind of work scavengers are doing, but to organise them and their work differently and to increase both their productivity and turnover by establishing a network of garbage compactors and transport means. By raising their incomes and making them more independent, it is hoped to improve the poor's self-esteem and to stabilise their livelihoods. It is both organisations' belief and experience that dependence has to be avoided and that building-up the poor's capabilities to take their lives into their own hands is of crucial importance.

Furthermore, the experience of self-esteem and independence is enhanced by earning profits that will be utilised for community development measures. The margins coming out of the business enterprise are supposed to be employed i.e. for their children's education, the construction of infrastructure (like e.g. community centres) or further business investments. In the long run, the successful implementation of this kind of innovative approach is likely to lead to a situation where the importance of third-party funds decreases and external assistance pales in comparison to self-contained initiative and performance.

7. Please give a brief description of the project, referring to the political, social-economic, ecological situation and human rights in the region / the country

The socio-economic and ecological significance of the proposed feasibility study is evident (see no.1 and 6). The Philippines as a country with a fast-growing population and a relatively poor record as regards the provision of basic human living conditions is in dire need of innovative approaches to combat the poverty of large sections of its population. Although this feasibility study would only contribute to a limited entrepreneurial project with clear community development orientation, the project itself could be conducive to fresh thinking around anti-poverty processes and therefore, in the long-term, to more political and economic stability.