

REPORT OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL IGBP COMMITTEE

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A. General Information

The IGBP (Philippines) National Committee was organized in May, 1992 and has become operational in July, 1992. Its Secretariat is with the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) which is an agency of the Department of Science & Technology (DOST).

The main function of the IGBP (Philippines) Committee is to serve as the coordinating body for the operation and monitoring of the projects of the IGBP International.

B. Terms of Reference of the National Committee

1. Assess and inventory, together with other government agencies and NGOs, the research and development efforts in the Philippines related to biosphere-geosphere interactions.
2. Identify R & D gaps and establish national, priorities and thrusts for R & D related to the core projects of IGBP.
3. Coordinate with concern national regional and international agencies in the implementation of approved IGBP projects.
4. Organize workshops, conferences, symposia, training courses jointly with other agencies in areas of the IGBP.
5. Institute a mechanism for transfer of information and dissemination of generated technologies from national research institutions within the realm of the core projects and other activities of the IGBP.

C. Activities of the IGBP (Philippines) as of October 31, 1992

1. Organized the National Committee in May, 1992.
2. On July 14, 1992, the National Committee had its first meeting. Items of the agenda were the introduction of the concepts, objectives and core projects of the IGBP. A preliminary identification of the institutions that the already undertaking researches on global change were done. These institutions shall be the core of the national IGBP research network system.

Briefing by the National Coordinator on the outputs of the IGBP meetings held in Singapore and Chiang Mai.

The committee undertook a preliminary inventory of the going researches: which are within the realm of the core projects of IGBP.

3. August 20, 1992, another national committee meeting was held. The highlights of which were:
 - a. Finalized the terms of reference of the IGBP (Philippines) National Committee.
 - b. Review the membership to the National Committee based on institution rather than on individual researcher.
 - c. Report by the Coordinator of the output of the 1st Regional Meeting of START (SARCS) held in Jakarta July 27-30, 1992.
4. A workshop on "Research to the Earth Summit: Implementing the Philippines Agenda 21 for Sustainable Development" was held in Manila, August 31 - September 1, 1992. This conference brought together high-level representatives of the Philippine Government, a significant number of NGO's involved in environmental activities, experts and the international donor community. These agencies made a collective assessment of the results and country implications of the recently concluded UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This forum also provided an opportunity for the various sectors to validate the action plans formulated based on the Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development.

One of the significant outputs of this workshop was the Philippine Agenda 21 which is the national blue print for action on sustainable development from present into the twenty-first century. The conference also drew initial reactions from the international donor community particularly the UN system agencies in the country.

Another functional outcome of this conference was the creation of the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSSD) which is tasked to review and ensure the implementation of the commitments of the Philippines made in the light of the UNCED conference.

The PCSSD shall serve to "provide the directions in the form of policy reforms, programs and new legislations that will respond to the continuing and emerging issue related to environment and development.

5. It was recognized by the IGBP (Philippines) National Committee that the human aspect of environmental/global change is a very important and urgent component. However, in all the on-going national researches pertinent to environmental global change the human dimension is very inadequate and needs immediate attention.
6. On October 1-2, 1992, the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), convened a symposium "Coping with National Disaster" as its theme. Two topics presented during this activity which have direct bearing with the IGBP and HDP programs are:

"Impact of Disasters on the Human Community"

"Research Agenda for Disaster Mitigation"

A strong recommendation was made towards the establishment of a National Disaster Research and Training Center. Should this Center materialize it can be one of the important research nodes in the IGBP (Philippines) global change research network.

D. Conclusion

The IGBP (Philippines) National Committee and its commensurate National Research Network have been very visible in the national arena of environmental/global change activities. It is considered as an integral link in the national research and development programs for environmental/global change aspect.

At the point in time, the core projects of IGBP are one of the source of inputs in setting the national priorities in environmental/global change researches. Chief among the IGBP core projects that have high national priority are the: GCTE, LOICZ, JGOFS and PAGES.

The establishment of the regional START committee (SARCS) will give a very important impetus in the enhancement of the R & D for global change in terms of collaborative research undertakings, training, symposia, co-sharing of data bases, exchange of scientists and information, etc.

Regarding financial support for the IGBP (Philippines), budget appropriation for its coordinative activities has already been incorporated in the NRCP budget for calendar year 1993 - 94. Funding of on-going national researches on environmental/global change are part of the research appropriation of the concerned institution.

Likewise, many national researches on geosphere-biosphere concerns are funded by the international donor community.

Lastly, allow me to express my sincere thanks to the Science Council of Japan, the IGBP (Japan) National Committee for giving me this opportunity to share in this significant symposium.