

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Action Program on Strengthening Social Dialogue in the Utilities in the Philippines

Introduction

The conclusions adopted by the ILO Tripartite Meeting on the Challenges And Opportunities Facing The Public Services, celebrated in Geneva from the 19 to the 23 of May 2003, indicate that “the best way to approach the questions who consider in the sector of services public would be to organize national and regional activities,” and suggested that the ILO facilitate national meetings of the social partners to promote dialogue, as a means to meet the challenges facing public services in the water sector, and contribute to the UN Millennium Declaration and that social dialogue should include the operators of the municipal public services and authorities to participate in appropriate forums and facilitating the dissemination of best practices. In order to carry out these suggestions, the National Steering Group has commissioned a baseline study to produce the appropriate basis for social dialogue.

The signers consider that it is extremely important that the process of social dialogue focuses on enabling mechanisms for social dialogue to strengthen participative governance; Water Policy issues; Transparency and accountability issues; Capabiity issues; and financial viability concerns. For it, it is essential to institute a mechanism for social dialogue in which the social partners be represented by representatives with authority to reach agreements and to implement them.

Commitments

The members of the National Steering Group commit to take the following steps to strengthen the social dialogue to strengthen the water utilities in the Philippines:

1. To establish a permanent mechanism to address water utilities challenges through social dialogue between workers, water operators and government.

2. To develop the appropriate conditions, opinions and attitudes for the social dialogue.
3. To explore all the needs of the parts and to offer ample opportunities to the participants to set out its positions.
4. To define to the participants with legitimacy and authority in the name of represented his.
5. To agree rules for social dialogue.
6. To jointly diagnose the problems of the water utilities in the Philippines.
7. To enumerate all the solutions suggested to each subject without evaluating them.
8. To identify objective criteria to evaluate each possible solution.
9. To select realistic solutions by means of the criteria previously selected.
10. To execute the work program to put in practice the selected solutions
11. To distribute responsibilities equitably and to determine acceptable and realistic terms according to the work program.
12. To establish a process to verify the agreements and results, and to solve the conflicts of interests.

In order to execute these commitments, the members of the National Steering Group commit to seek the contribution of experts in the matter and to study their advice, so that they can make suitable diagnoses and plan the actions with reliable information for all.

Agenda

The representatives of the National Steering Group set out to approach the following subjects of high-priority form by means of the social dialogue:

[TO BE FILLED IN]

In support to the activities numbered in this agreement, the Ministries represented in the National Steering Group will realise the specialized contributions necessary on the subjects that are during social dialogue, within their fiscal capacities. On the other hand, the International Labour Convention will support the realization of the baseline study and a validation workshop, within its fiscal capacities.

In Pampanga, The Philippines, on the 23 of June of 2010.