

## Whistleblowing in the Philippines: Awareness, Attitudes, and Structures Brief on the Completed Project

The Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Center for Corporate Social Responsibility - Hills Governance Program (RVR-Hills) at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) undertook this policy research, under the support and funding of the World Bank, from February to June 2006.

Broadly, the research aimed to support policy formulation and constituency building for whistleblowing in the Philippines. The documentary research provided a comprehensive review of the theoretical bases, practical aspects, and country and sector experiences that could guide policy formulation and implementation. The interviews with stakeholders identified key actors and provided a means for assessing their knowledge, interests, and roles in the institutionalization of whistleblowing in the Philippines. The findings of the documentary research and the interviews with stakeholders provided inputs to the policy planning workshop, which provided a venue for establishing partnerships and a constituency for a whistleblowing policy against corruption. Senior officials from both government and private sectors participated in the workshop.

The project produced three monographs. The main monograph is entitled *Whistleblowing Against Corruption*; it puts together the findings of the documentary research, interviews with stakeholders, and the policy planning workshop, and outlines the desired features of a whistleblowing policy appropriate to the circumstances of the Philippine public and private sectors. The supporting monographs are the *Documentation Report on Interviews with Stakeholders* and the *Policy Planning Workshop Report*. The CD version of these monographs will be distributed to the stakeholders and made available to other interested individuals and groups.

Just as notable are the partnerships that the RVR-Hills Governance Program forged in the course of the project's activities. The Office of the Ombudsman provided research leads and sent a contingent that vigorously participated in the policy planning workshop. The Ehem! Aha! Technical Working Group of the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus generously allowed the RVR-Hills group to use the findings of its own focus group discussions on whistleblowing. In turn, RVR-Hills offered the policy planning workshop as a dissemination channel for Ehem! Aha!'s research findings. A significant development is RVR-Hills' membership in the technical working group tasked with the study and consolidation of the whistleblowing bills in Congress.

Overall, the project gave RVR-Hills visibility in the field of governance reforms and defined for it a role in policy research and constituency building for anti-corruption programs in the Philippines. Having completed macro-level (national or societal) studies for the past two years, it hopes to do micro-level (sectoral, industry, or firm-level) studies next, still in the area of promoting good governance and anti-corruption measures in the private and public sectors.