



**Strengthening Governance for Infrastructure Service Delivery:  
The Role of Public Private Partnerships  
9-11 March 2009, Manila, Philippines**

**Welcome Remarks**

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Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) is a Philippine Government corporation mandated by its Charter to serve as a think tank capacity builder, as well as a policy, programs and systems integrator, in its institutional focus areas of governance and productivity. We perform these roles through the conduct of training, education, policy and action-oriented research, consulting and the provision of technical assistance.

We often times refer to our policy, programs, and systems integrator role as “partnership-building” since it is in performing this role that we bring together all individual and organizational stakeholders of a policy or a systems issue or a program to get together, discuss and evaluate things as they are with the end in view of resolving and agreeing on what best to do to get things moving and in doing so build a more effective and efficient working partnership between and among those involved. Often times, the relationship that is built from the experience evolves into a working and even lasting institutional partnership.

I would like to thank the Asian Development Bank Institute for giving us an opportunity to perform this partnership building role by bringing all of you together and embarking on this symposium in Strengthening Governance for Infrastructure Service Delivery through a more effective Public Private Partnership or PPP.

Over the past two decades, PPP schemes have been widely used all over the world to provide public services delivery especially in the area of infrastructure development. The PPP has been resorted to in many countries in a number of sectors such as in power generation and distribution, hospitals, roads and housing.

Starting from the year 1990, the Philippines has had quite a number of PPP projects. To date, it has reached 92 PPP projects or an estimated amount of \$24,525,000. In spite of the ease and advantages of using this alternative mode of service delivery, much still needs to be done in order to strengthen and eventually institutionalize PPPs in our country.

As pointed out in a 2005 Publication of the World Bank, among the things that need to be addressed with regards to PPP are: the weaknesses in planning and preparation of private infrastructure projects; unclear rationale statements; and ineffective guidelines in the provision of government support and other things.

I am pretty sure that the Philippines is not alone in the journey for a more effective PPP. Some or a majority of you here might have the same challenges before you and that is more than enough reason for us to get together in this symposium so we can share our experiences on how each of us try to handle, cope with, and address these challenges as opportunity areas for improvement.

It is indeed timely and laudable that we have this three day symposium on “Strengthening Governance in Asia-Pacific to Achieve Better Infrastructure Service Delivery: The Role of PPP” precisely for this purpose. While we don’t expect to come up with a “one-size-fits-all” strategy to address the challenges, we are hoping though that through this symposium, we could come up with clearer directions towards a framework on how we can situate the role of PPPs in strengthening governance so we can fully maximize its benefits.

By bringing together people like you who speak and understand the same language in an exercise like this, we hope that you can help accelerate development processes and strengthen the delivery of infrastructure not only in the Philippines but also across the Asia-Pacific and globally.

On behalf of the Philippine Government and our partners in this project, I would like to welcome all of you to the Philippines and to the symposium. May you all have a fruitful and productive three days ahead as we collectively share and discuss things as they are with the end in view of strengthening governance for infrastructure service delivery through a more effective public private partnership.

Thank you very much, good day to all of you and Mahubay!