Promoting Women-Owned Microenterprises and Small and Medium Enterprises: An Effective Measure for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development

Chairperson Myrna T. Yao

National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women APEC 11th Women Leaders' Meeting September 19, 2006; Hanoi, Vietnam Poverty is among the serious development challenges that the Philippines is facing today

In year 2003, 30.4% of Filipinos live below the poverty line

Philippine Government's Policy Action to Address Poverty

Job generation (services, agriculture and industry)

Promotion of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)

"...a good part of the additional monies realized from our fiscal gains will be driven in the direction of micro-enterprise development, of which 95% of the beneficiaries are women."

Philippine Government's Major Programs on MSMEs

- Credit assistance
- Capability building activities for women to engage in income-generating projects
 - Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (linking arms to fight poverty) or KALAHI poverty reduction program
 - ENTREPINAY (entrepreneur + Filipina) groups
 - GO NEGOSYO (go business)

Gaps/Challenges

Limited success in legislative efforts for micro-enterprises

Slow/flawed implementation of enterprise development laws

Addressing the Gaps/Challenges

The role of the National Machinery on Women...

The GREAT Women Project

Gender-Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women

Vision for the Project

Support and promote the economic empowerment of women especially those in microenterprises by contributing to the creation of a gender-responsive enabling environment for microenterprise development

Project Component 1:

NCRFW Capacity Development for Women's Economic Empowerment

- Capacity development inputs for NCRFW on local enterprise development, entrepreneurship, macroeconomics and trade issues
- 2. Development of women's economic empowerment tools
- 3. Monitoring and evaluation for women's economic empowerment

Project Component 2:

National Enabling Environment for Women's Economic Empowerment

- Capacity development for the genderresponsive implementation of microenterprise laws, policies and programs
 - Capacity development of/ partnership building with implementing partners
 - Partnership with training resource speakers
 - Partnership with advocacy/networking partners
 - Inter-agency coordination and linkage building

- 2. Support for the gender-responsive implementation of policies, programs & services
 - Baseline studies and process documentation
 - Partnership with national government agencies on creation of action plans, implementation of reforms on women's economic empowerment, and development of tools/guides for implementation of gender-responsive policies, programs and services
 - Development and provision of technical assistance on implementation, monitoring and evaluation of genderresponsive reforms for women's economic empowerment

Project Component 3:

Local Enabling Environment for Women in Micro-enterprise

- 1. Local Government Units capacity development for gender-responsive programs, projects and services for micro-enterprise development
- 2. LGU-private sector-civil society partnerships for women's economic empowerment
- 3. Support to gender-responsive implementation of programs, projects and services for microenterprises

GREAT Women Project Expected Results

Expert partners (academe, other resource persons or groups)

Developed or enhanced capacity of NGA and LGU/ local partners

Strengthened NCRFW capacity

 Increased knowledge of and skills in engaging in economic issues

Increased number of relevant tools developed and utilized for economic empowerment
More effective WEE monitoring and evaluation system

•Strengthened project administration Improved enabling environment for women's economic empowerment

More economically empowered women

•Greater control over productive resources and benefits from wealthcreating activities

- •Greater control over the business environment
- •Equal opportunity with men for decent work and high-value economic activities
- •Enhanced capacity to negotiate for better business and work conditions

Enhanced condition and capacity of women's enterprises

- •Improved access to services and productive resources
- •Enhanced economic, environmental, and social viability of enterprises
- •Enhanced quality of gender relations between partners and women engaged in micro-enterprises

GREAT Women Project Results Chain Analysis

THANK YOU