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Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative National Conference 2020

26 November 2020 | 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Livestream via Facebook and Zoom

Overview

To date, the PH-EITI has produced five Country Reports, with the publication of a sixth report already underway. The **6th Report** comprises data disclosed by 38 metallic mines, 16 nonmetallic mines, five oil and gas companies, eight national agencies, and 55 local government units, covering **PHP 63.4 billion** in revenues for fiscal year 2018. Provisionally entitled, **“Synergizing Transparency for Sustainability: The Sixth PH-EITI Report [FY 2018]”**, the 6th Report is hoped to inform the sector how mainstreaming extractives transparency in the Philippines could make EITI disclosures more timely, relevant, accessible, useful, and sustainable. PH-EITI is synergizing transparency by undertaking technology-driven whole-of-society effort towards the shared goal of ensuring that natural resources translate to sustainable development.

To communicate the foregoing to a wide multi-sectoral audience, the 6th Report was launched in a **National Conference** held on **26 November 2020**, which coincided with the seventh year since the issuance of EO 147 series of 2013. The program included a presentation of the key findings of the 6th Report, a retrospection of EITI implementation in the last seven years, and a presentation of PH EITI’s position paper on bills seeking to institutionalize extractives transparency. The event also served as the culminating activity of the *Online Learning on Extractives (On Learn)²*, the virtual edition of the annual PH-EITI LGU Roadshow. It was capped off by the *Transparency Awards*, PH-EITI’s annual award-giving ceremony to recognize outstanding performance and achievement in the implementation of EITI and promotion of extractives transparency as a whole.

In celebration of the seventh year since the creation of the PH-EITI, a three-day series of seven mini events leading to the day of the National Conference was also held. The weeklong celebration called Extractives Transparency Week, which featured talks and learning sessions on various EITI-related topics such as gender, beneficial ownership, and systematic disclosure, among others. The events, which were open to the public via live online streaming, while some participants participated via Zoom. The celebration was grouped according to three subthemes: *Synergy, Transparency, and Sustainability*.

Attendees

140 participants joined the National Conference. 56 of them are male, 79 are female, while 5 didn’t disclose their sex. The table below shows the disaggregated number of participants per sector.

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Sector	Number of Participants
CSOs	12
Industry	38
NGAs	38
LGUs	25
Media	3
Academe	2
Student	1
Secretariat	9

Highlights

1. Opening

The program host, Jules Guiang, opened the program which started with an invocation and the national anthem. The host also did a recap of what transpired in the Extractives Transparency Week (ETW) which culminated in the National Conference.

2. Opening Remarks

The focal person and chairperson of the PH-EITI Multistakeholder Group Department of Finance Undersecretary Bayani Agabin delivered the opening remarks. In his message, he looked back to the past seven years since issuance of EO 147 series of 2013 which created PH-EITI and marked the beginning of the efforts towards better transparency and accountability in extractives governance. He also acknowledged the efforts of stakeholders that made ETW possible despite the challenges on logistics posed by the pandemic. Usec. Agabin also invited the public to visit the PH-EITI Facebook page to review the recordings of the earlier sessions in ETW and participate in the conversations. He also gave an overview of the rest of the program which includes a report on the PH-EITI online roadshow with the title, Online Learning on Extractives (OnLearn) and an overview of the legislative advocacy work of PH-EITI. Usec. Agabin congratulated in advance the winners of the Transparency Awards which will be announced in the program. He expressed hope that the winners could serve as examples to inspire timely, systemic, and comprehensive disclosure of extractive data. He also said that the event provides an opportunity to assess the outcomes and impact of EITI implementation in the Philippines. Usec. Agabin said that seven years of PH-EITI represents extensive time and effort and considerable resources for the cause of transparency and accountability in the extractives. He implored stakeholders to remain committed to the values of cooperation and constructive engagement as PH-EITI pursues another year of synergy in implementing EITI in the country.

94 *3. Keynote Message*

95 The author of Senate Bill No. 349 or the PH-EITI Act Senator Joel Villanueva
96 delivered the keynote message. SB 349 is one of the two bills filed in senate that
97 seeks to institutionalize PH-EITI. Sen. Villanueva said that from the beginning of his
98 term in the senate, he has been advocating transparency in extractive industries. He
99 recalled some disasters suffered by the country such as flooding and the alleged
100 effects of illegal black sand mining and quarrying in Mt. Mayon. Sen. Villanueva said
101 that even when investigations on possible violations are underway, he believes that
102 the government must go beyond investigations and push for better governance in the
103 extractives sector. He also emphasized the value of mineral resources in the country
104 with an estimated value of around USD1.4 trillion but remains untapped. He also said
105 that there is still much left to be done following the 2017 EITI validation. He also said
106 that definitive strides must be made in the sector beginning with the
107 institutionalization of PH-EITI through the proposed bill in the senate.
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109 *4. Presentation of the Key Findings of the 6th Report*

110 PH-EITI Alternate Focal Person Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresa Habitan shared the
111 key findings of the 6th Country Report with the title, “Synergizing Transparency for
112 Sustainability”. She started with an introduction of EITI implementation and the
113 relevance of the Country Report. The report has three chapters—the contextual
114 information about the extractives, the reconciliation of extractives data and beneficial
115 ownership disclosure. The 6th Report covered 37 metallic mining projects, 20
116 nonmetallic mining projects, five oil and gas companies, eight national agencies and
117 57 local government units. The report shows PHP63.4 billion reconciled revenues in
118 2018. That is up by 68% from the PHP37.8 billion reconciled revenues in 2017. A
119 0.09% post-reconciled variance was recorded following the improvements in the
120 reporting process.
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122 *5. Highlights of the Annual Roadshow, “Online Learning on Extractives” (OnLearn)*

123 Ms. Jane Baldago, Outreach Manager of the PH-EITI Secretariat presented the
124 highlights of the annual LGU roadshow which aims to improve public understanding
125 of the management of natural resources, and availability of data, and create
126 opportunities for dialogue and constructive engagement in natural resource
127 management to build trust and reduce conflict among stakeholders. The roadshow
128 was conducted online through Zoom and Facebook amid the logistical constraints
129 brought about by the pandemic. The first phase was conducted in six regional
130 clusters and two provincial clusters. The second phase was held in partnership with
131 Bantay Kita and was conducted in five regional clusters. The sessions served as
132 opportunities for stakeholders to discuss issues and concerns about the EITI
133 implementation in the Philippines and the findings of the 6th Report.
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135 *6. Presentation of PH-EITI Legislative Advocacy*

136 Bantay Kita National Coordinator Mr. Vincent Lazatin presented the updates on the
137 policies and legislations supporting the EITI implementation in the Philippines. The PH-
138 EITI’s legislative agenda centers on the institutionalization of PH-EITI through the
139 enactment of legislation. Relevant bills filed in congress are House Bills 1691 and
140 6005; Senate Bills 349 and 1489.
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142 7. *Transparency Awards*

143 The Transparency Awards are honors given by the PH-EITI Multi-stakeholder Group
144 (MSG) to recognize outstanding performance and achievement in the implementation
145 of EITI in the Philippines. The **Excellence in Reporting Award** is the citation given
146 to the companies, national government agencies, and local government units that
147 submitted the best reporting templates and posted the least discrepancy after the
148 reporting and reconciliation process of PH-EITI, as endorsed by the Independent
149 Administrator (IA) and approved by the MSG. The winners were assessed based on
150 the following criteria:

151 **Timeliness** of template submission (20%);

152 **Quality** or the comprehensiveness and completeness of information in the
153 templates (40%);

154 **Least discrepancy** in figures (40%)

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156 The winners were declared from each of the six (6) categories:

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158 *Metallic Companies*

159 First Place - Carrascal Mining Corporation

160 Second Place - Taganito Mining Corporation

161 Third Place - Cagdianao Mining Corporation

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163 *Non-metallic Companies*

164 First Place - Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation

165 Second Place - Holcim Mining and Development Corporation - Davao

166 Third Place - Eagle Cement Corporation

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168 *Oil and Gas*

169 Shell Philippines Exploration B.V.

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171 *National Government Agencies*

172 Department of Energy

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174 *LGUS - TIER 1 (with reconciled collections above PHP 33,290,000.00)*

175 First Place - Bunawan, Agusan del Sur

176 Second Place - Taysan, Batangas

177 Third Place - Bataraza, Palawan

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179 *LGUS - TIER 2 (with reconciled collections below PHP 33,290,000.00)*

180 Santiago, Agusan del Norte

181 Mankayan, Benguet

182 Alcoy, Cebu

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184 8. *Closing Remarks and Sythesis*

185 Atty. Ronald Recidoro, Executive Director of the Chamber of Mines of the
186 Phiippines delivered the closing remarks where he thanked stakeholders in its
187 continued engagement with PH-EITI to ensure that the initiative achieves its
188 objectives.

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