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Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
SPECIAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
9 November 2020 | 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM | Zoom Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

Attendees

National Government Agency Representatives

1. Asec. Ma Teresa S. Habitan
2. Ms. Febe J. Lim
3. Ms. Charmaine B. Odicta
4. Ms. Anna Liza Bonagua
5. Engr. Romualdo D. Aguilos

Industry Representatives

1. Atty. Joan D. Adaci-Cattiling
2. Atty. Ronald Rex S. Recidoro
3. Atty. Francis Joseph G. Ballesteros Jr.
4. Atty. Odette A. Javier

Civil Society Organizations Representatives

1. Mr. Vincent T. Lazatin
2. Ms. Aniceta Baltar
3. Dr. Buenaventura M. Maata, Jr.
4. Dr. Nelson C. Cuaresma Jr.
5. Dr. Glenn Pajares
6. Mr. Chito Trillanes
7. Prof. Ladylyn L. Mangada
8. Ms. Angelica Dacanay

Guests

1. Ms. Maria Angela Monica Salud B. Mamuyac (DOE)
2. Lea T. Fernandez (Petroleum Association of the Philippines)
3. Annabelle D. Ong (Petroleum Association of the Philippines)

PH-EITI Secretariat

Agenda

- I. Recap of 2020
- II. Priorities for 2021
- III. Approach to EITI Reporting
- IV. Schedule of Revalidation
- V. Other Matters: Transparency Awards

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Highlights

I. Recap of 2020

Secretariat presented the following updates on PH-EITI's progress in meeting the Standard and in completing the requirements for Validation. The same report was sent to the MSG a day before the meeting.

- The draft 6th Report has been forwarded to the International Secretariat (IS) and the IS has provided comments. The comments have been forwarded to the consultants. The comments will also be sent to the MSG. The consultants are expected to submit the final draft within the week. Some information are still needed from the DBM, BIR, and NPC.
- On the updates for the 7th Report, there will be four chapters, following a flexible approach, as recommended due to the pandemic. There will be a thematic report on SDMP. Consultants hired are the following:
 - Contextual info - Atty. Brenda Jay Mendoza
 - Reconciliation – Ms. Linnet Chan
 - Industry Outlook – Mr. Jerick Aguilar
 - Thematic Report – Prof. Sharon Macagba
- The production of the 7th Report will be delayed, considering delays in the procurement process. If the 6th Report will be the basis of revalidation, then the publication of the 7th report shall not be published before the Revalidation.
 - To answer an inquiry, the secretariat explained that four consultants were hired to address a policy on budget limit for hiring consultants. Consultancy fees must not be more than PhP 100,000.00 per month. Atty. Mendoza will be the team leader and will consolidate the reports from other consultants. Having four consultants ensures that a specialist is working on every aspect of the report.
- An industry representative emphasized that the report must be mainstreamed and that the report shall focus more on the analysis and just have references to the portal. The secretariat said that the 6th Report also has mainstreamed features/elements.
- The operations of the PH-EITI continue despite the pandemic.
- Beneficial ownership disclosure was one of the focus areas this year.
- The final copy of the gender scoping study has been circulated among the MSG members but in case there will be changes, it may have an addendum in 2021.

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- Efforts seeking the institutionalization of EITI are ongoing including the finalization of a legislative advocacy plan
- 2021 Budget
 - The total budget allotted for the PH-EITI in 2021 is PhP 13,346,000.00. No provision for communications and meeting expenses.
 - The cost of meeting tools such as Zoom will have to be shouldered by the secretariat.
 - An industry representative inquired about the World Bank funding for the gender capacity-building, saying that the COMP has a project related to it that they wish to push through.
 - The secretariat said that it is still waiting for the World Bank's response. It may take 6 months to 1 year before it the funding could be made available.
 - The secretariat said that there is no budget for events and asked stakeholders to consider sharing venue spaces for future meetings.
 - In response to another inquiry, the secretariat confirmed that the provision for professional services covers fees for consultants and personnel. The hiring of a National Coordinator is also on hold.
 - CSO representatives acknowledged budget constraints and said that the MSG could make do with online meetings for now. The recommendation was to work within the budget, set priorities based on the long term and short term plans, and seek other sources of funding.
 - The Chair acknowledged that while there would be efforts to seek funding, there may be a challenge in securing funds considering the ongoing pandemic.
 - The secretariat requested the MSG to recommend possible funding sources/opportunities.
- The EITI International Strategic Priorities
 - i. Anti-corruption (beneficial ownership, transparency)
 - ii. Energy Transition
 - iii. Impact Evaluation.

II. Options and recommendations for 2021 Priorities

- The secretariat presented the following options and recommendations based on IS priorities, PH-EITI's existing efforts, and EITI standard requirements

- 145 a. Anti-corruption (BO and contract transparency)
- 146 b. Impact evaluation
- 147 c. Systematic disclosure
- 148 d. Complete coverage of nonmetallic mining sector
- 149 e. Gender
- 150 f. Small-scale mining
- 151 g. Environmental reporting

152

- 153 • A member recommended a clearer process in identifying priorities such as the
154 SWOT analysis, identification of recommendations from previous Validation, review
155 of On Learn outcomes, looking into recommendations and priorities from the IS, and
156 prioritization of response to local and internal issues
- 157
- 158 • The Chair also asked to consider budget constraints and cost in deciding on priorities
- 159
- 160 • The Chair recommended that the PH-EITI may communicate to IS the existing list
161 and cite that because of budget constraints, the PH-EITI may only be able to
162 prioritize the first four items.
- 163
- 164

165 *III. Approach to EITI reporting*

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- 167 • The secretariat recapped that links to references for each type of reporting have
168 been sent to the MSG for review
- 169
- 170 • The Chair clarified that the decision will impact the 8th Report and not the 7th Report.
- 171
- 172 • A civil society representative asked for the difference among options in terms of cost
173 and magnitude of work, the impact on the ground, and how simple can results to
174 communities. He asked if there can be a matrix for the MSG to see. The
175 representative also emphasized that the important people who should learn about the
176 report are the people on the ground.
- 177
- 178 • An MSG member expressed a leaning towards alternative reporting to allow PH-EITI
179 to customize it into the Philippine context and make it easier to communicate to the
180 people on the ground.
- 181
- 182 • The secretariat clarified that the conventional approach is what is being done over
183 the past years, with reconciliation done by an independent administrator; the flexible
184 approach requires no reconciliation, but a forward-looking element is necessary; and
185 lastly, the alternative is more customizable, and may be thematic in approach
- 186
- 187 • MSG members expressed concerns on possible data loss and continuity of data if
188 there would be a sudden change in the reporting approach.
- 189
- 190 • The secretariat said that data collection will be maintained
- 191

- 192 • The Chair said that it may still be something to be clarified with the EITI
193 implementation board.
194
- 195 • An industry representative cautioned on the erosion of the data and emphasized the
196 need to be careful to ensure that the data that companies publish on their websites
197 will still be accurate and comprehensive. The representative further agreed that there
198 is a need to reach the grassroots, and emphasized that there were plans before to
199 simplify the report and produce materials in the vernacular. Acknowledging that the
200 budget may be a concern, he said that such materials still have to be produced.
201
- 202 • The Chair confirmed that there will still be templates to be used for reporting even in
203 the flexible type of reporting but that the PH-EITI should keep the quality of the data.
204
- 205 • Summarizing the discussions, the secretariat said it will communicate to IS that the
206 MSG is considering either the flexible or alternative approach to reporting.
207
208

209 *IV. Schedule of Validation*

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- 211 • The secretariat recommends that the Validation commence on or after April 12, 2021
212
- 213 ○ This gives the PH-EITI enough time to amend/update the 6th Report. The
214 official deadline for the publication and submission of the 6th Report is on
215 December 31, 2020; amendments/addendum may still be considered in the
216 first quarter of the coming year.
 - 217 ○ This will also give enough time to rehire members of the secretariat. There
218 are possible delays in processing the rehiring of the secretariat at the start of
219 the year. The first three months of the year may be enough to ensure that all
220 key members of the secretariat are already present by the time of the
221 Validation.
222
 - 223 ○ The schedule is set after the Holy Week.
224
- 225 • The MSG asked for specific updates on the progress on the preparations for
226 revalidation.
227
- 228 • The secretariat clarified that the 2020 work plan was built around the Validation
229 process and the updates are reflected in the progress report sent to the MSG and
230 discussed earlier in the meeting, but if a percentage progress is required, it may be
231 estimated at 80%, awaiting the publication of the 6th Report, which should address
232 EITI requirements to be Validated.
233
- 234 • The update submitted to the MSG covers activities and items contributing to the
235 preparations for revalidation. The secretariat reiterated updates on beneficial
236 ownership (BO) disclosure compliance, and contract transparency, and other items
237 indicated in the progress update. The secretariat asked that if the MSG members

238 have specific concerns or questions on the Validation progress, they may refer to the
239 document and send the secretariat an email for questions.

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242 *V. Other Matters: Transparency Awards*

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244 • Proposed award categories

245 ○ Metallic – top 3

246 ○ Non-metallic – top 3

247 ○ Oil and Gas – top 1

248 ○ NGAs – top 1

249 ○ LGUs – top 3

250

251 • The secretariat presented the criteria which is the same as the criteria used in the
252 past (timeliness, quality, discrepancy)

253 • The MSG reminded the secretariat to employ the handicapping method that was
254 implemented before to weed out LGUs and entities reporting 0 data.

255 • The secretariat agreed and said that the method will be communicated to the IA.

256 • The secretariat reminded the MSG that it needs to review the shortlisted nominees.

257 • The secretariat presented the shortlisted companies

258 • The Chair stressed that all nominees have to be operating companies.

259 • A TWG has to be convened to discuss the nominations

260 • The secretariat will review minutes of past meetings to identify the TWG members
261 and will confirm the list via e-mail.

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263 Without any other matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.