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# Developing Stakeholder Relationship for River Health Plans and Initiatives: Keys for Success

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## The Case of Pasig River in the Philippines

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# Introduction

## The State of Stakeholders Participation and Involvement In Reviving River Health Plans and Initiatives



- Local government Units are giving lesser priority and less support in the implementation of river restoration and rehabilitation -related projects
- Private sectors such as the business groups are less committed and less supportive to the restoration advocacy and rehabilitation
- Community involvement and participation in river clean-up is unsustainable
- National government gives less priority to funding river restoration works

# The Role of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources -River Basin Control Office (DENR-RBCO)



- Serves as the government lead agency in the integrated planning, rehabilitation and management of the Philippine Rivers, lakes and River Basins  
(Executive Order 1987-192, Executive Order No. 2009-816, and Executive Order No. 2006- 510)
- Coordinates with other government agencies implementation of integrated plans and Projects
- Serves as secretariat to the Manila Bay Catchment Basin Coordinating Committee- a policy and Advisory Body on Pasig river, Laguna Lake and Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program of the Government .

# Developing Successful Relationship with Stakeholders



## MAJOR ISSUES:

- Lack of Stakeholders awareness on the state of river degradation issue and lack of proper information on stakeholders role and participation on river health restoration
- Community Poverty constraints , unsubstantial role given to the poor in decision making and Inadequate government logistics and sustained financing to back up sustaining stakeholders involvement and participation especially the informal settlers
- Socio-Political constraints



## Ongoing / Planned Initiatives on Developing Successful Relationship with Stakeholders

- ❑ Launching of massive information, education and advocacy program
- ❑ Executing Stronger Public–Private Partnerships in restoring the rivers health especially in areas of investment for river pollution reduction
- ❑ Strong Multi-Sectoral participation and partnerships in the River Basin Organization where the stakeholders are given substantial role in decision making to restore the health of the rivers.



## Developing Successful Relationship with Stakeholders: Keys for Success in Pasig River

- ❑ Deputize the Private Groups/Non-Government Organizations under its eco-watch strategy/Program to monitor and safeguard Pasig River from garbage and wastes dumping
- ❑ Established Memorandum of Agreement with the country's biggest Media Company- the ABS-CBN Company through its foundation to help in advocacy campaign and rehabilitation of Pasig River
- ❑ Institute and Mobilized the river side Local Government Units and its River side communities for a regular river clean and advocacy campaign program

# Expectations from IWC and its Network of Clients and Partners

- ❑ For IWC to take the lead organization in the Asia-Pacific as depository of knowledge, information, directory of experts and good practices on river health assessment and restoration for dissemination to the user-countries in the region
- ❑ IWC and its Network of clients and partners to be fully supportive, facilitative and open to the regional country's queries to immediately restore its deteriorating and polluted rivers
- ❑ For IWC to establish efficient and operational system of communication and web-based exchange of ideas and knowledge for easy access and use of its databases and research results.



# Proposed Collaboration with IWC and its Network of Clients and Partners

- Twinning Program to share experiences and good practices in addressing Stakeholder participation issues and concerns
- Development of stakeholders participation plan for Pasig river
- Training Program to strengthen technical capacity and manpower development in dealing with stakeholders participation concerns



**THANK YOU**



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