KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE AREA: POVERTY

INFORMAL CITY DIALOGUE: THE 2040 URBAN CHALLENGE IN METRO MANILA

The Rockefeller Foundation has launched the Centennial Urban Challenge for the 21st Century Project formally referred to as “Informal City Dialogues: The 2040 Challenge”. The Project aims to examine the formal and informal structures within cities, understand the relationship between the formal and informal, and envision a future for these cities. Six cities around the world (Accra in Ghana, Bangkok in Thailand, Chennai in India, Lima in Peru, Manila in Philippines, and Nairobi in Kenya) have been selected to propose innovations. The proposed innovations will compete with the other cities’ proposals from the Informal City Dialogues Urban Innovation Grant Pool. Proposals selected may receive a maximum of $100,000.00 from the Rockefeller Foundation to support 1 year of work on the innovation.

The main objective of the Informal City Dialogues: The 2040 Urban Challenge is to explore how to bridge and manage formality and informality in cities in order to expand opportunities for poor and vulnerable populations and to increase resilience of the future.

The Forum for the Future (FFF) is the coordinating grantee for the Project and is partnering with the Ateneo De Manila University-School of Government (ASoG) as implementer of the project in Metro Manila. ASoG will work closely with different stakeholders in implementing the project. ASoG shall undertake the following principal tasks:

- **Project Period:** January 1, 2013-September 30, 2013
- **With support from:** Forum for the Future

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1. Identify a diverse group of stakeholders representing the broad composition of the informal sector in Metro Manila, and the public (government), private (industry, etc.), civic (non-profit, urban poor, etc.), academia and others;
2. Produce a briefing paper for the Metro Manila Inclusive Futures Mapping consisting of 5 community profiles generated from community mapping exercises, desk researches on the issues in Metro Manila, and reports from the sectoral FGDs. The briefing paper will revolve around the following themes: a) physical; b) institutional; c) social; d) economic; and e) environmental futures of Metro Manila informal communities and sectors;
3. Organize and conduct multi-stakeholder workshops:
   a. Community Inclusive Futures 2014 Mapping Workshop that will develop a set of alternative futures reflecting inclusive innovations especially in the areas of development and human security in Metro Manila; and,
   b. Inclusive Futures 2040 Planning Workshop that will develop inclusive responses and formulate action steps;
4. Draft and finalize maps of the Metro Manila futures as reflected in inclusive innovations narratives;
5. Prepare, together with local stakeholders, an entry to the Challenge Grant to Rockefeller Foundation; and,
6. Prepare and submit regular project status updates and final report to FFF.

Urban poor against the scenery of city skyscrapers  
*Photo taken from: http://youronevoicecanmakeadifference.wordpress.com/party-list-urban-poor-*