

# Philippines Program Summary

The Philippines' program is focused on enhancing anti-corruption efforts by strengthening the Office of the Ombudsman, improving revenue administration and increasing enforcement capacity within the Department of Finance.

## *Program Highlights*

- ★ Since the initiation of the alternative dispute resolution program at the Office of the Ombudsman in 2007, 326 cases have been successfully mediated, significantly reducing its backlog of unresolved cases.
- ★ Extensive training for Office of the Ombudsman prosecutors and investigators has increased their ability to handle corruption cases, and high profile corruption cases are increasingly being filed. As a means of sustaining these efforts, a reference manual for corruption cases was developed, and a new Center for Asian Integrity was established.
- ★ Transparency in tax collection is also being improved under the program by streamlining and computerizing taxpayer information at 75 Revenue District Offices throughout the country. Extensive training and modernization of the Run After the Tax Evaders program under the Threshold Program is improving tax evasion investigations and prosecutions.
- ★ Better case preparation by Revenue Integrity Protection Service personnel contributed to the suspensions of 21 officials in 2007.
- ★ There has been a 58% reduction in the time devoted to preliminary investigation of reported Revenue Integrity Protection Service cases in the Ombudsman. The duration for Ombudsman decisions on the granting of preventive suspensions has been reduced from a high of 18 months to only a single month in some instances with an average of 6 months since 2007.
- ★ Software licensing issues and customization of the IT system to Bureau of Internal Revenue's human resource policies and processes have been resolved.

### Threshold Status

Status.....Implementation, Year 2

### Threshold Information

Total Amount.....\$21 million

Agreement Signed.....July 26, 2006

### Country Information

Population.....83,054,480\*

GNI Per Capita Income.....\$1,300\*

\*World Development Indicators, World Bank, 2005