

A case study on Prioritizing Disaster Preparedness: the Albay Model

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF CASE STUDIES

This case study introduces the work of the Albay provincial government to formalize and professionalize disaster preparedness in the province. The purpose of the case study is to serve as a tangible and accessible model for evaluating the impact of professionalizing disaster preparedness on the capacities of communities to cope with and reduce the impact of natural disasters. This case may be used to illustrate a model adopted by Albay Province for professionalizing disaster preparedness (both a historical record and a forward looking model for other provinces across the Philippines and elsewhere throughout South East Asia) and may also be used as a teaching tool for disaster managers, trainers, educators, and policy makers.

The case study may be used by instructors in a variety of ways (that fits their own pedagogical approaches to learning), but is probably best viewed as a group straight through. Our expectation is that this case study will engender conversations about the applicability of this model for other provinces in the Philippines and for other countries in South East Asia.

This case study does the following.

- Outlines the process of institutionalizing disaster risk reduction and management mechanisms at the local level.
- Explores the implications of a zero casualty goal on disaster preparedness policy and planning.
- Highlights the challenges disaster management professionals and students should consider for reducing casualties from natural disasters.

Illustrative questions and exercises are provided below and are designed as examples to spark discussion and debate. Instructors are encouraged to design their own questions and themes of discussion as fits the needs of the audience.

This case study was designed primarily for officials in the local government units in the Philippines, as well as disaster management professionals and students, regionally. It is also a useful public engagement tool and may be of benefit to wider audiences.

The following are suggested exercises and questions to accompany the video.

REPLICABILITY EXERCISE

After watching the video and based on the information it provided, the following exercise addresses the replicability of the Albay model.

Questions:

- Would this be replicable in your province or region?
- What is needed in your area to help prioritise institutionalisation?
- What would you need to be able to start these practices?

Objective: Discuss the challenges confronted during the institutionalisation of APSEMO and how the Albay leadership responded (discuss some technical requirements of APSEMO, e.g. the resources needed, staffing, etc.).

Questions:

- What were some of the strategic and technical challenges that the Albay leadership faced?
- What was the thinking that led the leadership of Albay to institutionalize APSEMO?
- How did APSEMO survive changes in political leadership over the years?
- What was critical in how Governors viewed APSEMO's work that ensured its survival?

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Which hazards are you most concerned about?
- What are the early warning systems, communication protocols, evacuation procedures in your region?
- What practical steps can be taken to reduce disaster risk? What policy reforms are needed and what kinds of investments must be made to improve local communities' capacity to cope with natural disasters?

RECOMMENDED READING AND USEFUL RESOURCES

APSEMO website

<http://albay.gov.ph/apsemo/>

Geography and Public Planning: Albay and Disaster Risk Management

hdn.org.ph/wp-content/uploads/DP_04_Espinas.pdf

Province of Albay, Philippines: Responding to the Challenge of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

<http://www.alnap.org/resource/6853>

Implementing Rules and Regulation of REPUBLIC ACT No. 10121

<http://www.ndrrmc.gov.ph/13-disaster-risk-reduction-and-management-laws/95-implementing-rules-and-regulation-of-republic-act-no-10121>