

ANNEX I.1

CASE STUDY/RIIC DOST REGION 3

(Storyline: What are the elements that bring key players in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) from government, industry and academe together (or apart) towards strengthening innovation ecosystem and collaboration/partnership via the Regional Inclusive Innovation Centers (RIICs)

RESPONDENT INFO

Date: 07/08/2021

Name: Julis Caesar Sicat

Sex: Male

Agency: Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region 3

Designation: Regional Director

Role in RIIC: I belong in the core group called Technological Hive of Regional Innovation for Vibrant Ecosystem (THRIVE) Central Luzon which is currently based in Bulacan State University in Malolos. What we plan to establish in the RIIC, and while the concept is web-based, we wished to create a physical space to house the man power.

Project Setting: Suburban

Specify location unit of analysis (city, province, whole region?): Region 3 Central Luzon - RIICs

We were able to have a MOA with the Bulacan State University so it includes all of it but the physical space would be in Malolos.

Questions	Answers
A. PLANNING THE RIIC	
1. Why did you establish an RIIC in the region?	I liked the idea of RIICs. This is a problem I've seen in Central Luzon when it comes to collaboration since there are agencies who would want to take the lead role and that creates the misunderstanding. It is a very good strategy to bring in an external organization that brings together different government agencies. I immediately committed to STRIDE and to have this established in Central Luzon. Back then STRIDE Philippine project was only supposed to be done in half a year, so ang hinabol namin yung idea and guidance to start the ball rolling to start putting up the system and the concept of RIIC in Central Luzon. We were very happy to know afterwards that STRIDE was extended. The good thing is that the intention we have in trying

	<p>to put up a system of providing assistance to the MSMEs. I found that the RIIC is a very good vehicle to which government projects can be channelled. Similar to a one- stop shop where they could scout the specific assistance for the MSMEs.</p> <p>RD can you tell us the estimated or exact time kung kelan nagsimula yung RIICs? – Agnes Sept of 2020</p>
2. For partners, why did you join the RIIC in the region?	N/A
3. Why was your location chosen for the RIIC implementation?	As we mentioned earlier I volunteered to negotiate the hosting of the RIIC in Central Luzon since I found this to be a good intervention. The specific area would be Malolos City, and we arrived at this because we were thinking that it was supposed to be an SUC who would host the RIIC. Ang pinagpipilian namin is Bulacan and Pampanga. Now the good thing is that Bulacan Chamber was able to enable partnerships. With the willingness of the Bulacan State University’s president, dun na din napunta yung physical space.
4. Is the proximity to the Cities Development Initiative (CDI) a factor in the selection of your location?	No
4.1 If yes, how did the CDI influence RIIC formation?	NA
5. Are there other similar projects as the RIICs in your location?	No
5.1. If yes, how did the STRIDE initiated RIIC add value to your projects?	NA
6. Towards convergence: What were the planning challenges and how were these overcome? (project management, budget, capacities etc.)	With respect to the project earlier, I allotted funds so we were able to solve the problems when it comes to budgeting. But when it comes to collaboration in research outputs I talked to the director of CHED. CHED supervises all state universities so my coordination was made easier. Having CHED as an institutional network made it easier for us. They even committed direct partnership with us.

	<p>May I know how much GIA did you provide for the first year operation? -Cecilia</p> <p>For 2020 we gave them more than 700,000 and for 2021 it is 1.5 million.</p>
<p>7. What are the market opportunities (local, regional, foreign, etc.) of the RIIC in your area?</p>	<p>Currently nasa infancy stage ang ating RIIC. Initial partnership natin is with Bulacan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce North Luzon, so sila po yung immediate beneficiaries of our initiatives. Sila yung ready to take on the opportunities of the RIIC. Likewise, we just launched the web-based THRIVE Central Luzon app, and I believe that with that we can increase the coverage of assistance of the RIIC by removing the physical boundaries. Initially I could safely say that members of the Bulacan Chamber of Commerce would be the main beneficiaries.</p>
<p>8. What are the R and D opportunities of the RIIC in your area? (Probing: are there SUCs, knowledge creation centers, technical schools)?</p>	<p>Yes as I mentioned earlier all the 11 SUCs in Central Luzon have signed a MOA through CHED Regional Office for the support in terms of the R&D and all these innovation initiatives to help the RIIC soar high.</p>
<p>9. Before the RIICs, was there any link between the academe and the industry in your location? (i. e. through the GIA program of the academe/DOST?)</p>	<p>Yes although in a limited scale through the regional aid and grants program they constantly submit funding to us and I instruct them as mandated by law as the DOST regional office I provide them direction on the particular R&D focus. Through this we get engagements which of course may be similar to what the RIIC can provide but on a very limited but focused commodity.</p>
<p>B. IMPLEMENTATION</p>	
<p>1. What have been the gains of the RIIC so far?</p>	<p>As I mentioned, we were able to establish a network of Higher Education Institutions mostly state universities and colleges. This is one big accomplishment. Aside from this we were able to put in information from DOST from R&D institutions of the region, and all these information are already encoded or being</p>

	<p>encoded in the RIIC website and being processed by our hired personnel such that it can be prepared and ready for the use of the target clientele which is the MSMEs.</p> <p>1.1 (probe) Please compare to the initial condition, i. e. without the RIIC.</p> <p>Before the RIIC I provided the funds for a database for all the information I mentioned earlier. The problem here is that it only covers the R&D output and businesses initiatives of that region, it does not include the interventions provided by DTI and other government agencies. Medyo limited siya, kaya with the coming of the RIICs mas magiging madali yung pag-access ng information and innovation of the different clients, it also makes it easier for governments to find customers. With the RIICs I can foresee that all these MSMEs would go to the RIIC website and would be the conduit for them to access much needed services to survive or prosper in this very competitive world.</p>
<p>2. Towards Convergence: What are the implementation challenges? (i.e. funding, capacities, distrust, lack of policies, lack of matching between academe and industry, etc.)</p>	<p>Nagkaroon din kami ng mga challenges for example the negotiation with the Angeles University Foundation, nagkaproblema kami when it comes to having the Project Management leader provide the needed information because of Intellectual Property.</p>
<p>2.1 How were these overcome?</p>	<p>But we were able to coax the Project Leaders. We simply had to assure them that IPRs would be respected.</p>
<p>3. What are the partnership challenges? Please specify.</p>	<p>The RIIC concept was pushed by DTI and DOST, DTI is very particular in terms of building, dun nagkakaroon ng konting challenge but lucky for me because the DTI regional director is a friend of mine. I was telling her that it is about time we need to talk about the issues that hounded the different agencies before and we need to go away with the building focus. We try to remove the EPAL mentality so collaboration would be easier.</p>

C. EVALUATING EFFECTIVENESS	
<p>1. What are the roles of partners as follows:</p> <p>1.1 government</p> <p>1.2 academe</p> <p>1.3 industry</p> <p>1.4 civil society</p> <p>1.5 Other partners?</p>	<p>1.1 government</p> <p>Ang vision ko dito is that the government line agencies to provide the necessary support to operationalize the RIIC.</p> <p>1.2 academe</p> <p>The SUCs and the CHED would be the workforce at the current set up, with respect to putting up the information, setting up the database and everything.</p> <p>1.3 industry</p> <p>I would be happy to see the industry partners to be very active in encouraging its members to use the RIIC platform so their businesses and members can make use of the RIIC platform.</p> <p>1.4 civil society</p> <p>The MSMEs should follow the particular provisions of the particular programs that could be beneficial to them. These engagements entail MOAs to follow the specific stipulations. These are the obligations of our project beneficiaries.</p> <p>1.5 Other partners?</p> <p>We would be welcoming the participation of the LGU.</p>
<p>2. What were the essential initial conditions that made this project successful?</p>	<p>I think very critical dito yung active participation of Bulacan State University, not only the President's commitment but also having a VP who believes in the system is a critical factor. Even with the projects of DOST, having a passionate partner is ensuring the success of a project. The passion of Bulacan State University particularly the President and the VPs is very high.</p>

	<p>Bakit ba sila nag engage dito? Ano ba background nila? -Ivy</p> <p>Natutuwa ako dito kasi yung president nila si Ma'am Cecile (Gascon) subscribes to the potentials of science and technology. In all the planning workshops of her University personnel parati kaming naiinvite to commend the initiatives that their university crafts. The components of these programs are aligned with the objectives of the RIICs. Naka-align na talaga itong establishment ng RIIC sa kanilang plans.</p>
<p>5. Are there other data to demonstrate the impact of the RIIC (indicators or measures of success such as increased productivity, increased network, increased sales, increased participation of MSME, others)?</p>	<p>Di pa po ganun ka visible but for increased network, better relationship of partners is something that we can call as a success measure of the project with the Angeles University Foundation actively participating in the activities of the RIIC. The Pampanga furniture industry foundation which before would not want to host the RIIC is now very much interested. I mentioned earlier we presented these to Pampanga or Bulacan, hindi naging maganda yung sagot ng President ng Pampanga Furniture Industry Foundation because his answer was lukewarm. Now that RIICs have been implemented Pampanga wants to be on it.</p>
<p>D. MAKING IMPROVEMENTS</p>	
<p>1. What strategies do you have in mind to strengthen collaboration among agencies?</p>	<p>Ang nakikita ko kasi kailangan dito, although sinasabi ko na walang-epal, is that the agencies need a sense of ownership. Yung sa activities dapat immersed sila. I'm very happy that in the launching activities we had all the partner agencies are actively participating showing their commitment for the project. I'm not so keen on expanding this right away, what I see is that we should be able to show proof of how we're able to deliver something. I was telling our RIIC personnel to pursue the Business Recovery Plan of Central Luzon. Once we're able to do this and we can show that the RIIC can provide good avenues to pursue the Business Recovery Plan</p>

	then people would start trusting the program and its initiatives.
1.1 Strategies to attract more partners?	This is what I said earlier that we have to prove to them that the program works. If we would operate it right now with CHED, DOST and the Chambers, controllable pa siya eh if you have more partners maybe it might be more difficult. Once we can prove that it works, we can pull in our LGUs and our prospective angel investors and our Senators who can help in funding and expansion of the services of the RIICs and its impact to the MSMEs.
1.2. Strategies to sustain the partnership/convergence?	Marami na kaming convergence programs sa Central Luzon and hindi naman namin kailangan problemahin to. With regards to the sustainability of the project, the RIICs should be supported by the Chambers of Commerce. I envision funding this for 5 more years and then the Chamber would be in a better position to handle it. I was looking into this similar to Netherlands and Germany’s system where the MSMEs are empowered. I don’t subscribe to the government bankrolling projects for the rest of time. Probably 5 years lang okay na.
1.2 Any challenges with the sustainability of partnership?	None. The Chambers already have their own good partnerships as they saw the potential to push the MSMEs to serve not only their regions but also in greater Metro Manila.
E. SHARING THE BENEFITS	
1. For Region 3, what inspired you to establish your RIIC?	Yung nakita kong presentation of OROBEST nakita ko agad yung potential nito. Especially when they showed us their business recovery plan, I saw this as something very good and doable. It would be a good bible for MSMEs. Yung problem ng MSMEs is that naliligaw sila sa operation lalo na kung may challenge, and with a bible to guide them parang operations manual

	<p>ng isang machine – a business recovery plan – then it would be very easy for them.</p>
<p>1.1 What lessons were learned from the pilot RIICs?</p>	<p>Hindi ko gaanong review kung may malaki silang problema pero one thing that really stood out was the business recovery plan.</p>
<p>Follow-up Questions</p>	<p>I was just wondering if the SUCs in Region 3 would have clear Intellectual Property Rights sa mga R&D outputs nila? Cause if not yet, baka kailangan nilang gawin so they can have better transparency and they can partner better? - Agnes</p> <p>Most if not all SUCs here now have their own Intellectual Property Offices. Even PhilRice had one. Even private higher educational institutions have their own IPOs. Even in DOST we were mandated to establish their own IPs to safeguard the R&D output.</p> <p>Meron na bang existing template na andun yung industry since hindi sila usually nasa MOA? - Cecilia</p> <p>Ininvoke na po yun, kasama na sa mga MOA namin.</p> <p>To push for the agenda of the DOST we bait them with the money. We tell them what good research would be and then I'll tell them we have funds, all they have to do is submit proposals.</p> <p>So meron pa kayong umbrella MOA kung saan naka saad ang financing and IPR provision?- Noriel</p> <p>Yung sa mga programs namin, meron na po yun sa mga template.</p> <p>Commodity for 700k and 1.5million projects? - Cecilia</p> <p>700k would be for the staff we have to hire and the equipments needed, overhead costs basically.</p>

	<p>So ano po yung mga activities or projects right now that are funded by the 700k and the 1.5 million, aside from the coordination of course?</p> <p>Yung pang input po ng information we have to really spend for that, communication expenses, internet and licensing materials. Once the situation warrants face-to-face we will start workshops now with capacity building capacities.</p> <p>Yung commodity orientation?-Agnes</p> <p>Kapag nag-aaccess na po nila ng programs.</p>
<p>END OF CASE STUDY QUESTIONS</p>	
<p>Notetaker: Juan Gabriel T. Daray</p>	