

ANNEX J.1

KII RESPONSES FOR IPOPHIL

Objective: To describe how STRIDE IP-related interventions have contributed to the improvement of the innovation ecosystem and how this has contributed to the capacity to innovate of its stakeholders.

Agency/Office: IPOPHIL

Respondent: Rowel Barba

Gender (M/F): Male

Designation: Director General (DG)

Date: September 17, 2021

Nature of Engagement with STRIDE (current or previous years, as partner, resource person):

I came from DTI, I'm former undersecretary of DTI. I was part of study tour in 2017 together with Sec. Ramon Lopez, Usec. Guevarra, Usec. Fita, Dr. Rotor, Naph Juanillo, Dr. Ric, Dr. Hall and others from USAID. I think that was the start of active collaboration of STRIDE. Prior to 2000 (not clear the year, inaudible), no action from the government kasi matagal na din nagstart ang STRIDE. According to Dr. Hall, he was impressed by the collaboration and the reception being given by the government in this administration. I was just appointed as DG last year February 2020. But even before that, the IPOPHIL mayroon na ring projects especially the capacity building of academe. I think they call it KTTP. We were part of foresight study sponsored by STRIDE.

Naikotan ko po lahat as Undersecretary sa DTI. I handled Competitiveness and Ease of Doing Business for a year. Then after that I was assigned to work on the Construction Group before I left and the group after the Secretary composed of the Foreign Trade Service Core.

IPOPHIL is an attached agency of DTI.

EVALUATION CRITERIA QUESTIONS:

1. RELEVANCE

1.1 To what extent has STRIDE contributed to addressing the IP concerns in the context of commercialization/ technology transfer in the Philippines?

I can cite three major contributions:

- Enlightening the academe on the importance of IP in the larger innovation agenda. We also have the Innovation Technological Services Office (ITSO) and currently we have 80+ schools and universities included in that program
- Enhancing institutional capacity and management capacity especially ITSO

- Improving collaborative science and technology research output for broad based sustainable economic growth

With that trip sa US namin, there was greater collaboration between DTI and DOST. Kaya nga po nung lipat ko dito sa IPOPHIL, medyo matagal na nga na hinihingi na superhighway for projects funded by DOST nangyari po yun last year. After our trip sa US, nagmapping muna kami yung environment the ecosystem dito sa Philippines because at that time parang wala pang nasisisimulan.

Can we really attribute the collaboration between the national agencies to the effort of STRIDE to connect innovation actors?

Yes. In fact, when we had an audience with USAID in the US, we requested for an extension of the project because at that time the project is ending. Hopefully, they can give more projects in the Philippines.

Dagdag ko lang po dun sa three major contributions ng STRIDE, focus on one of our IPOPHIL's goals which is to educate more colleges and universities on how IP can turn their research and development their products that really matter as well as how can help them generate more capital for their innovation and for them to get bigger R&D projects. Nakita po kasi natin dito sa Philippines more of supply driven, walang coordination between academe and industry. Ang academe gawa sila ng gawa ng research for the sake of research (not aligned). Kaya nga po yung result ng trip na yun is to really align the needs of industries with the academe. Hopefully, we can have more projects or venues where the government, academe and industries can work together.

How can SUC have ITS0?

Dati kasi walang buy in ang mga president kaya pag wala na yung president wala na din yung opisina. Ngayon we institutionalized it and we required the SUCs from dedicated office to have dedicated personnel.

Under ITS0 2.0, we required SUCs to have dedicated office and dedicated personnel pati trainings na binibigay namin para tuloy tuloy. Currently, there are 80+ active ITS0 in our network.

1.2 What do you think is STRIDE's value addition in the innovation ecosystem space given the answer in 1.1?

STRIDE IP's education effort brought positive impact to the entrepreneurship side of innovation by helping set the foundation that will improve the socio-economic condition of the Philippines and cultivating the business development and IP management skills of our innovators so we can now ensure that their innovations are solutions to real problems and can be business endeavor that will generate jobs and provides income to them and for their worker.

1.3 Based on your perception, how has the STRIDE intervention contributed to improvement of the innovation ecosystem, in terms of commercialization activities (i.e., IPR training to stakeholders, help in start -ups and spin offs)

It helps create the relationship between academe and industry kasi nga po before yung industry walang pakialam sa academe. Ang academe naman walang pakialam sa industry. Nakita po namin that there is large gap between these two sides kaya nga po yung lack of collaboration has been a big problem in innovation. And alam naman po natin that the industry needs academe for technical and R&D concerns and the academe needs the private sector/industry who has the financial means. Kaya nga po malaking bagay talaga yung value adding to be able to at least mawala yung gap between the

academe and industry. Ang pinakaimportante po dyan is to be able to help them both the academe and industry formed partnership built on trust as provided for by the IP system.

2. EFFECTIVENESS

2.1 Has STRIDE interventions made some impacts on the IP policy?

Yes. Yung experts provided by STRIDE and deployed to the Philippines and the knowledge shared to us are invaluable. These have helped set our policy direction to generate more technology transfer activities and build greater relationships between the academe and industry. Sinabi ko na po before yung study tour naming in 2017 with Sec. Mon. It was truly a catalyst. The relationship between government-industry-academe were strengthened. These were reflected in many joint innovation programs and policies including the landmark Philippine innovation act that we are implementing today. After the trip the government side resolve to pass the innovation act at that time. I can also say that with the strategic foresight training which as a result of the covid19 pandemic the challenge for us policy makers to better adapt to sudden changes. IPOPHIL is one of early partners. We sent four participants to join the training with DOST, NEDA and DTI.

2.2 Has STRIDE interventions made some impacts on entrepreneurship in the country?

Yes. All the accomplishment of STRIDE happened in the 2nd phase. No buy in phase 1. I think dito sa phase 2 nasolidify yung commitment of the government to really push for innovation. Dito naman po sa impact on the entrepreneurship, by helping the academe appreciate the value of their IP products and other intangible assets, STRIDE has definitely cultivated the culture of entrepreneurship among our innovators. It has also elevated our MSMEs by emphasizing how innovative products and services can put them ahead in a fiercely tight competition. Nakita natin ito sa joint project ng US Embassy, USAID STRIDE and DTI yung set up ng fab labs all over the country. We recognize naman that fab labs play vital role in providing technical prototyping especially for our start-ups and MSMEs and sharing expertise on start up mentoring and design development.

STRIDE strengthened DTI and academe partnerships. I think halos lahat ng mga SUCs ay may mga shared services like Fab Labs na din which manufactured face shields last year nung nagkaubusan ng face shields sa market that's the contribution ng Fab labs at ITSOs.

2.3 What nature of interventions can be introduced to improve commercialization in the country?

I think yung most important problem/challenge is financing. So hopefully, we will be able to help them source. While we have started collaboration between academe and industry, I think we should bolster more para talagang solid while we are having increase ITSO network and increase interaction with the industry more is needed to build their capacity, marketing naman their portfolios.

DTI don't have R&D. We're working together with DOST since R&D is with them talagang close collaboration. I think ang expertise of DTI as they work with private store. Wala rin po yan sa mandate ng IPOPHIL. We started some work in commercialization pero napagsabihan po kami ng DOST since it's their mandate.

More on financial ang nakikita natin problema ngayon which we can assist our innovators to finance their project and alam naman po natin because of this pandemic na nabawasan ang R&D ng DOST for

this year. But hopefully, they will be able to increase their research budget nila. Hopefully, we can ask DA to be active especially with the production. Malaking bagay po ang production nila because ang DTI will only come in upon commercialization kapag may processing but yung production talaga ay sa DA talaga.

Yung ITSO Nueva Ecija naming ay isa sa mga active ITSO's in the Philippines. Marami din po sila award. Ang plano ko po sana ay ikotan ang mga ITSO but due to travel protocols (inaudible).

2.4 What are some of the challenges for doing industry- responsive innovative research?

Challenges yun pa rin po ano increasing collaboration between academe and industry. It remains a challenge while we have done something but not yet ideal situation. While we have made significant strides, promoting, and forming this partnership there's remain a lot of work to be done (inaudible). Yung 2019 STRIDE assessment on innovation ecosystem of the Philippines. Nakita po nil ana engagement remains to be on the individual basis meaning industry would only go to specific faculty member they know from the university kung may kakilala lang po. So, we would like the initiatives mas centre on holistic approach were we involve university and its innovators as a whole yan po that's one of the initiatives our ITSO program is implementing.

Nabanggit nyo po kanina madami pong accomplishments and STRIDE during the 2nd phase and you've mentioned that the government is committed na. Halimbawa, hindi po pandemic, sa tingin nyo po mataas pa din po kaya ang commitment ng government?

Kung walang pandemic, I think all the programs ay tuloy tuloy. We could have done more kasi all of us have been sidetrack by the COVID19. Ngayon po under the situation where face to face are limited and may mga limitations sa travel we just accomplish what we can accomplish. Kung wala pong COVID, we could have done more.

3. SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 What is the likelihood that IP initiatives and gains, if any, will continue after the completion of the project?

Yes, kami po dito sa IPOPHIL we see many of the IP initiatives carrying on as STRIDE programs really made deep impact. Many here see the need to preserve or even scale up these initiatives. In 2020, yung beneficiaries karamihan sa mga KTTO they created local organization yung Alliance of Tech Transer Professional of the Philippines (ATOP) under the leadership of Atty. Cruz of La Salle. That is aim professionalizing and growing the capacity of individuals in tech transfer and IP management. We see ATOP as very active player in helping develop IP commercialization of capabilities in the country. Yan po yung concrete example na nagawa ng KTTO program.

We must preserve or even scale up. We continue to preserve of the synergy event, yun daw po yung synergy annual event under KTTO to bring industry, academe, and government together to come up with institutional cooperation in promoting innovation and technological development in the Philippines. Yung pitching event has been mainstay in our ITSO activities. We replicated po namin sa lahat ng ITSO activities. Before pre-covid we used to have ITSO convention or general assembly. Hindi

na po natuloy yan starting last year. Hopefully, we can hold the soonest possible time. Its difficult to have develop relationship dito sa virtual. Hopefully, after pandemic we can meet with them.

3.2 What is the requisite IP policy environment for sustainability of STRIDE interventions?

Based on our experience, main factor would be the willingness of others to cooperate in order for us to sustain this momentum. On the government side, I just hope that the next administration and the secretary of DTI, DOST, DA and Neda will have the same enthusiasm and perspective shown by this administration. I just hope that the coming administration will be more enthusiastic and passionate in promoting innovation and creativity in the Philippines. Kami naman po dito sa IPOPHIL, we have been fortunate in our work na we have been expanding innovation and creativity numerous partners across the government, private sector, academe, policy makers and even the youth.

Thanks to STRIDE, we were able to advance further in enjoining more people in our cause. Kami naman po dito sa IPOPHIL, our services have dramatically improved even during this pandemic. IPOPHIL is the 1st government that is fully digitized. Starting last year, pinagbawal na po namin ang manual filing. Nirequire na po namin online from application until payment. Ang portal po namin ay available 24/7 and can be reached anywhere from the Philippines. Even the hearings po namin sa mga cases dito is conducted virtually. Siguro po kami lang ang government agency in the Philippines that is digitized. And we are proud of that achievement. Meron na po nung mga pre-pandemic and na improve pa po namin until now na pandemic and we even have mobile application so pwede na pong mag-apply and check ng status ng mga applications through telephones. Lahat ng processes po namin ay online thru emails kasi nagkaproblema kami sa mga notices especially yung snail mail natin. Dahil sa mga ECQ yung mga notices dumadating sa kanila 2-3 months late. Before po kasi wala pong nabigay na email addresses yung mga applicants but we are requiring them to provide us with their addresses para yun na din yung means po namin of communicating with them and hopefully we are looking at issuing e-certificates na walang hard copy. Mag-issue na lang po kami if may magrequest ng hard copy.

I'm confident to say that the fundamentals are here to continue STRIDE's initiatives and we welcome more initiatives in the program. We would like to see happen. Hopefully may phase 3 po naman.

What do you think would be the activities that could really improve the innovation ecosystem pag nagkaphase 3?

There's still big work to do in capacitating our MSMEs and our start-ups. Yun po yung malalaki pa ring markets natin especially our start-ups na tech. Yan po yung hopefully gusto natin madevelop. Si Sec. Mon Lopez has identified the creative sector as one of the bright aspects of the Philippines by next year. So hopefully, we will be able to develop more that sector yung mga creatives po natin kasama po dyan ang mga game developers and tech start-ups. Kaya po kami ngayon dito sa IPOPHIL we are starting to capacitate them, informing them about their rights, obligations and hopefully, we will be able to make a difference in their lives and to help the sector contribute to the economic development of the Philippines.

END of KII