

Application

Preliminary Question

In which language are you submitting the application (check one)?

Please note that each country has the option of either submitting an application in English, or in their native language if they are unable to pay for translation into English. For applications submitted in the native language, OGP will pay for the translation into English before passing on to the judges.

English
 Native language (please mention)

If you are submitting in your native language and it is non-Latin based language, you will have the option of uploading a PDF file at the end of this application. Please follow the questions and word limits mentioned in the application template.

A. THE TEAM

The following information is required to capture a basic understanding of those responsible for your initiative and any partnerships that have helped you to meet your goals.

INITIATIVE NAME (required)

Provide the name of the initiative that your team is submitting for consideration of the 2015 Open Government Awards. If the initiative is operating under one or more alternate name(s), provide the name that is most commonly recognized.

Seal of Good Local Governance (The Seal)

THE NOMINATION (required)

Begin by describing how this initiative was selected. For example, mention any nomination or consultation process held with civil society partners or others when selecting the initiative.

[100 words]

Selection for our nominated initiative was done through the Philippine OGP Steering Committee, which guides the implementation of OGP in the Philippines. It is composed of 4 government agencies, and 5 networks from civil society and business. Four programs were initially nominated by Steering Committee Members, and each programs presented their accomplishments to the Steering Committee.

After deliberations and some consultations with their members (for CSO networks), an online voting process among Steering Committee members was conducted to select the nominee. The Seal of Good Local Governance garnered a majority of votes among Steering Committee members.

Is this initiative included in your country's OGP National Action Plan?

(Applicants can choose initiatives from within OR outside their OGP National Action Plans)

Yes No

GOVERNMENT POINT OF CONTACT (required)

Provide the name, title, phone number(s), email address(es) and mailing address of a single point of contact for the purposes of communicating with your team. The person should be the senior most individual responsible for overseeing the application requirements.

Please also provide the name and professional title of the government official responsible for implementing the initiative, if different from above.

Contact Person:
 Mr. Patrick Lim
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 Head of Operating Unit:
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TYPE OF APPLICATION (required)

We strongly encourage applicants to submit a joint application from a government agency and a civil society organization. Only submit a joint application if a civil society organization was involved in either designing, implementing or monitoring the initiative jointly with the government.

Is this a joint application?

Yes No

If yes, please fill out the "civil society point of contact" field below.

CIVIL SOCIETY POINT OF CONTACT

Please provide the name and title of a single point of contact at the organization. By providing these details you acknowledge that you are jointly applying with a civil society organization for the 2015 Open Government Awards.

Dr. Francisco A. Magno
 Director
 Jesse M. Robredo Institute of Governance / Task Force Participatory Local Governance
 Email: lsig@dlsu.edu.ph
 Tel No: +632 524 4611

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS (optional)

If you are partnering with one or more other government agencies, private sector entities, media etc., please list each partner. In 250 words or less, provide a brief narrative of the partnership and the role each partner plays in your initiative.

We design and implement the Seal with the following partners :

- from the business sector: Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and members in the National Competitive Council.
- from government: Commission on Audit, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Phil-Health-Department of Health, Department of Education, National Council on Disability Affairs, National Council on Indigenous Peoples, Philippine Commission on Women, Council for the Welfare of Children, Philippine National Police, National Solid Waste Commission, Government Service Insurance System, Office of Civil Defense;
- from leagues of local governments: Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, League of Provinces, League of Cities, and League of Municipalities
- from civil society organizations operating at the national and local levels: Transparency and Accountability Network, CODE-NGO, Jessie Robredo Institute of Governance and 1,676 civil society organizations operating at the local level.
- from donor agencies: World Bank, ADB, EU, AusAid, and French Development Agency

The organizations working at the national level from business sectors, government, leagues of local governments, and civil society organizations are engaged in the design of the Seal and its indicators, in the assessment and conferment of the Seal and incentives, and in the evaluation of outcomes. Civil society organizations operating at the local level participate in the assessment and monitoring of whether local governments meet the Seal requirements.

Development partners provide technical assistance in pursuing institutional reforms such as tools and systems enhancement.

B. THE INITIATIVE

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is prepared to celebrate a range of successful applicants for the Open Government Awards. This year's theme is Improving Public Services through Open Government. Please visit here for more clarification on the theme. To qualify for recognition, we need to understand the various elements of success of your initiative and its sustainability over time. Please answer the following questions:

PROBLEM DEFINITION (required)

In 200 words or less, please identify the specific problem your initiative intended to solve. Why was this problem important to solve at a particular time and what were the challenges posed by your national (or local) economic or political context?

The Philippines has experienced economic growth for the last five years. But pursuing inclusive growth to benefit all sectors of the society, especially the poor and marginalized, remains a challenge:

- Development is meaningful when citizens are informed how public funds exact accountability from government.
- Our country is prone to calamities. Losing a loved-one, a home, a livelihood because of disasters like Typhoon Hyan in 2013 compels us to take disaster preparedness seriously.
- Millions of Filipinos such as women, children, Persons with Disabilities and Indigenous Peoples need protection against discrimination, neglect and invisibility.
- Business groups clamor for fast and transparent processing of business permits. This facilitates creation of more jobs for Filipinos.
- Crimes at the community can be addressed with strong partnership between the government and the citizens.
- Protecting the environment is a way to balance future socio-economic development and to cope with the negative effects of climate change.

Many laws have been established mandating that services related to these areas provided by local governments. However, many local governments fail to deliver on these services. This program seeks to provide incentives for local governments to provide or improve services delivered in the above mentioned areas.

INITIATIVE DESIGN (required)

In 250 words or less, describe your initiative's goals and objectives. How did it aim to improve public service delivery, who was it intended to benefit (specify the target population), and why was it important to use open government approaches to achieve this goal? If your initiative was designed to improve access or services for disadvantaged or marginalized groups, provide details on this here. Describe any innovations in the design of the initiative.

The Seal of Good Local Governance seeks to:

- Improve government service delivery by fostering openness and participation; and
- Improve governance and capacity of local governments.

The Seal is a performance-based incentive system for local governments in the Philippines, designed and implemented by the Department of the Interior and Local Government in partnership with other national government agencies, local government leagues, business groups and civil society organizations. A total of 1,676 civil society organizations participated in assessing 1,715 provincial, city and municipal governments.

The Seal has a set of criteria under six components: (1) Financial Good Housekeeping; (2) Disaster Preparedness; (3) Social Protection, (4) Business Friendliness and Competitiveness; (5) Peace and Order; and (6) Environmental Management. The Seal started with the Financial Good Housekeeping component in 2010 and was expanded to include five additional components in 2014.

The criteria include compliance with laws that protect the disadvantaged; for example, every local government must have an accredited maternal care facility; standard ramps and handrails for Persons with Disabilities; and representation of Indigenous Peoples in the Local Legislative Council. The criteria are progressive with the intent of setting the bar higher every year.

Local governments meeting the criteria are conferred with the Seal and provided access to package of incentives, such as grants and program windows from national government agencies and loans from financing institutions to implement projects in support of Millennium Development Goals. The Seal has effectively made compliance with the Seal's criteria a top concern among local governments.

INITIATIVE OUTCOMES (required)

In 450 words or less, explain how your initiative was able to demonstrate one or more of the following results:

- Citizens have better access to information on the public services to which they are entitled, and/or information on the performance of public service providers
- Governments are better at asking for and responding to feedback or complaints by citizens on the quality of public services
- Citizens have ways to actively participate in the design and delivery of public services
- Citizens have mechanisms to monitor and oversee public works and services

Initiatives should also provide evidence if the initiative was able to expand access to public services to a larger population than before or if the quality and efficiency of public services has improved.

If there are any baseline indicators to measure the outcomes of the initiative, please describe them in detail. If the initiative was included in the OGP Action Plan, please describe how this did (or did not) contribute to the initiative's success.

Citizens have better access to information on public spending. Never in the past have the information about incomes and spending of local governments become accessible to the citizens today just by browsing the computer or a smartphone. The Seal has paved the way for the birth of the City and Municipal Disclosure Policy Portal in www.fdp.dilg.gov.ph. Today, more than 90% of the 1715 provincial, city and municipal governments regularly upload their financial documents in the Portal, which can be viewed and downloaded by citizens with internet connection anywhere, anytime. In other words, the power of LGU information is now in the hands of the citizen. And a change of behaviors among LGUs has been achieved. Before the Seal was initiated, 480 LGUs obtained "adverse financial audit findings" in 2009. In 2013, this number was reduced by 75 percent to 120 LGUs.

Citizens have greater access to public services. Through performance-based grants (tied with the Performance Challenge Fund and Bottom-up-Budgeting Programs), around 15,000 development projects amounting US\$1.2 Billion were implemented across 1,500 local governments. Most development projects include construction of local school buildings, birthing facilities for women, potable water systems, sewerage systems, local roads, infrastructure facilities for persons with disabilities, disaster evacuation centers and public markets, among others.

Service performance for the disadvantaged sectors has also improved:

- Before the implementation of the scaled-up Seal (in 2013), only 56% of city and municipal governments offer complete maternal care services. A year after the implementation of the Seal, the number increased to 67%.
- Also in 2013, there were 50 local governments which did not have Indigenous Peoples representatives in the Local Legislative Council. With the Seal giving primacy to visibility of IPs, the number was reduced to 29 in 2014.
- In the past, reced for compliance with the Accessibility Law, e.g., ramps and handrails for persons with PWDs were not accounted. Today, 60% of total local governments have complied. However, of this figure, only 20% complied with quality standards. This baseline data is very important in tracking and improving services for PWDs.
- Citizens have mechanisms to oversee public works and services

Consistent with our full disclosure advocacy, we have also made information on the PCF projects transparent and accessible in http://pcf.dilg.gov.ph. Here citizens can see location and project status funded by PCF and can feedback as to the quality, implementation progress, and impacts of the projects. This way we engage citizens to tell us what they see and know about local PCF projects in their communities. For example, they can upload photos to show progress of the projects. Visual feedback is powerful in determining movement of PCF implementation.

INITIATIVE SUSTAINABILITY (required)

In 200 words or less, please describe any plans for scaling up or sustaining the initiative. Base your description of the strategy on the information provided in the previous sections, such as how you intend to leverage your current success and increase your reach or capacity. Address any threats or operational challenges to your initiative and describe how you manage those risks on a regular basis.

The Seal has a multi-pronged strategy for sustainability:

- Wide stakeholder engagement in program planning, implementation and evaluation – there is a high degree of ownership among various stakeholders (including civil society organizations), and their collaboration is sustained by engaging them in annual planning; in scaling up of existing indicators and the call for new ones; in the assessment and conferment of the Seal and incentives, in the evaluation of outcomes, and in celebrating gains.
- Provision of regular budget – the project cost is included in the annual budget of the Department of the Interior and Local Government.
- Institutionalized operational structure - there is an established operational unit at the national and sub-national offices that steers and facilitates collaboration and implementation of the Seal.
- Open data - financial data and development projects information are readily accessible to the citizens. The next milestone is for performance data to be organized and shared to the public for easy understanding.
- On use of the Seal - As a testament to the seal's usefulness, the seal is now being used by banks as a requirement for local governments to access development loans and other government agencies also require the Seal as a condition for accessing grants and programs.

VALIDATION OF CLAIMS (required)

While it is strongly encouraged that each initiative includes an implementing partner, such as a Civil Society Organization, private sector agency, media entity, etc., it is not a requirement. However, you are required to secure and upload documents from at least two credible nongovernmental actors, who can attest to the veracity of the claims made in your application.

You are only allowed to upload one file. If you have multiple documents, please zip them into a single file first. The file types that are allowed to be uploaded have an extension of .ZIP, .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, .XLS or .XLSX.

Validation of Claims.zip

C. THE PITCH

The following information allows each applicant to make their strongest (and final) case for consideration.

BEST CASE (required)

In 250 words or less, present the most compelling facts for why your initiative should be recognized. This is an opportunity to distinguish your initiative, based on any factors that you have not had the opportunity to describe in the previous sections. What is your best argument for why your initiative has achieved a meaningful outcome? What elements of the initiative make it different and better than others that have been tried and tested? Be creative and concise.

The Seal is a whole-of-government effort, forming partnership among national government agencies, local governments, development partners, and civil society organizations. The award and incentives system drives local governments to improve their services. These incentives are translated into tangible development projects which are directly felt by the citizens. These become the Mayors' political capital, where they report the results to the citizens and use the information for local planning.

Uses of the Seal have been continuously expanded. It is now part of the eligibility requirements for program windows of other government agencies like Bottom-up Budgeting program, in addition to the Performance Challenge Fund, and for accessing loans from financing institutions. The donor community, particularly the UN System, ADB and World Bank, has also utilized the Seal as a gauge of LGU readiness for accessing development financing.

The Seal has also helped civil society partners raise level of informed advocacies for women and children's rights, environmental integrity and disaster preparedness, visibility of PWDs and IPs, and good governance and anti-corruption, among others.

The Seal is a full demonstration that transparency and accountability work for the interest of the citizen, not only in knowing the financial health of the local government and the range of services it provides, but also in triggering change in local behaviors. The Seal ignites a revolution where citizens are able to draw so much local information that can keep local governments on their toes, engage in good service delivery, and transform local politics and governance.

VIDEO SUBMISSION or ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS (optional)

OGP does not offer a venue for applicants to meet our judges during the application process. In order to provide the opportunity for making a personal connection, you are encouraged to upload a short video to complement your application. You may also depict an individual participant in your initiative and describe his or her experience. We do not need to know actual names or personal details. Take this opportunity to tell a story, to connect with our panel of experts, so that they might better understand your attention to specific needs.

Video submissions should follow these guidelines:

Maximum length of 3-4 minutes.

Please focus on personal presentations; it's not necessary to develop a sophisticated or polished video.

Here are some logistical and technical suggestions:

Video cameras, digital cameras, and phones are easy ways to record a video.
 Laptop and desktop computers can typically record video through Skype or other software.
 If possible, set to a low resolution to reduce file size. This will enable an easier video uploading process.
 If you are having difficulty uploading the video file, try logging out of the application and logging back in using another Internet browser.

Here are general suggestions for delivering a high-quality video pitch:

Introduce yourself and your initiative. Focus on describing your intended benefits and/or services and how they have been effective. What is unique about your initiative, partners, or technical approach? Keep your description and language simple.

* NOTE

If the burden of developing a video presentation is either prohibitive or might not reflect the best characterization of your initiative, then you are not required to submit one, and the judges are instructed not to discount your application because it may not include a video. You may upload additional documents instead, such as proof of implementation and results if you wish. This could take the form of evaluation or audit reports, citizen surveys, media reports etc. that would provide additional validation for judges. We hope that this option offers a new and inventive way in which you can best express the results of your work.

You are only allowed to upload one file with a maximum of 3 pages. This file must be in English or in your native language. If you have multiple documents, please zip them into a single file first. The file types that are allowed to be uploaded have an extension of .ZIP, .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, .XLS or .XLSX.

Full Submission Of non-Latin Based Native Language

If your language is Latin based, DO NOT use this upload field. Please use the application above.

You are only allowed to upload one file with an extension of .PDF