

**Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy**  
**STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP**

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**January 25, 2004**  
**Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City**

*Summary Report*

**I. Executive Summary**

“A progressive, empowered, and peaceful Muslim community enjoying the benefits of democracy but faithfully practicing Islam”. This is the kind of community participants to the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy’s (PCID) Strategic Planning Workshop collectively envision for the future of Mindanao.

The two-day workshop held in Davao City brought together around 30 key resource persons who have championed democracy, peace and development in Muslim Mindanao. Among the organizations represented are The Association of Lanao GAD Advocates, Kalimudan Foundation Inc., Muslim and Christian Forever Movement Association, Muslim Mindanao Great Minds Advocacy, Institute of Bangsamoro Studies, Women Indigenou Focus for Enhancement Inc, Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women, Bureau of Public Information, Tarbilang Foundation, Alliance of Concerned Bangsamoro Women, NDU Peace Center.

The workshop has been made possible by the efforts of the PCID co-convenors - former Presidential Advisor on Youth Affairs, Amina Rasul, Institute for Strategic Initiatives’ Executive Director, Atty. Suharto Amobolodto, Ustadj Esmael Ebrahim, Executive Director of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies, Dr. Samuel Pahm, Head of Metro Kotawato, and Fatmawati Salapuddin, Bangsamoro Women Solidarity Forum.

**II. Workshop Objective**

The over-all picture of poverty in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) continues to be deplorable. The five (5) provinces of the ARMM remain to be the veritable “usual suspects” in the Club 20 of Provinces with the lowest Human Development Indices. This already sad plight is even aggravated by the off-and-on conflict between the military and Muslim armed groups further draining whatever meager government resources there are that should otherwise be reserved for basic social services of the communities in the region.

Moreover, problems of weak democratic institutions marked by ineffective governance and lack of participation of stakeholders in decision-making processes exacerbate the situation. Thus there is a need for a continuing discourse among

the various stakeholders of ARMM's economic development to generate options for development alternatives when the present political, social and economic policies and interventions do not seem to contribute to the over-all improvement of the quality of life of most Muslim Filipinos. Furthermore, this continuing discourse must ensure that these generated options and ideas remain true to Islamic tenets and principles.

The PCID has been successful in engaging leaders in discussions on critical issues of political, social and economic reforms that confront the Muslim communities. At this point, the Council needs to prepare its strategic plan in order to best attain its overarching goal of assisting the Muslim communities attain peace and development. The 20 council members will prepare their strategic plan, sharpen the focus of the organization's proposed program and formalize the organization of the network.

### **III. Program**

January 25, 2003

9:00 – 9:30 AM	<b>Overview of the Strategic Planning Process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- House Rules and Administrative Guidelines</li><li>- Workshop Context and Scope</li><li>- Objectives and Methods</li><li>- Expected Outputs and Outcomes</li></ul>
9:30 – 11:00 AM	<b>Session 1: Scenario Building</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Environmental Scanning (opportunities and threats)</li><li>- Internal Analysis and Driving Forces (strengths and weaknesses)</li><li>- Key Issues and Priorities</li></ul>
11:00 – 11:15 AM	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:45 PM	<b>Session 2: Strategic Objectives and Direction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identifying organizational goals and objectives</li><li>- Setting Vision and Mission</li><li>- Organizational structure</li></ul>
12:45 – 1:45 PM	Lunch Break
1:45 – 3:15 PM	<b>Session 3: Strategic Thrusts and Action Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Developing actions to achieve objectives/ goals</li><li>- Identifying specific programs and projects</li></ul>
3:15 – 3:30 PM	Coffee Break

3:30 – 5:00 PM

**Session 4: Needs Assessment and Implementation**

- Determining resource requirements/ operational issues associated with action plan
- Identifying potential partners, other stakeholders
- Developing framework of implementation

5:00 – 6:00 PM

**Overall Synthesis and Next Steps**

**IV. Workshop Output**

Below are the key outputs of the workshop:

**A. SCENARIO-BUILDING**

1. *What institutions, processes, resources or events can HELP Islam interface with democracy?*
2. *What institutions, processes, resources or events can IMPEDE Islam interface with democracy?*

*Annex A: Scenario-building workshop output*

**B. VISION-SETTING**

*What is our vision for the community (Muslim Mindanao)?*

**VISION:**

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- Responsive, participative Islamic community
- Peaceful community
- Vibrant community
- Economically liberated
- Community with true, genuine autonomy
- The existence of Islamic communities in the Philippines enjoying the benefits of democracy but faithfully practicing Islam
- Empowered, i.e. People participating in the affairs
- Capable of self governance, alleviated from poverty with sufficient household income
- Community that is fair and just
- Well-educated, well-informed
- A social fabric with genuine freedom, social justice and equity
- Muslims living in dignity, in progressive and peaceful communities – equal part of nation
- A well informed Muslim community or Islamic practices, human rights and healthy practices

## C. ACTION AGENDA

*What can we do in the next 100 days, in the medium-term, to bring about this vision?*

### **POLITICAL SECTOR**

1. Peace building activities
2. Information drive advocating for responsible voting
3. Information drive advocating for responsible governance
4. Community consultation
5. Study on other political options: federal, parliament
6. Information drive on water rights
7. Promote and advance sustainable development
8. Advocacy on electoral reforms
9. Institutionalize people's participation in the peace process(consultation, negotiation, dialogue, concensus)
10. Legitimize traditional democratic processes and institutions
11. Empower and operationalize local governance/ institutions

### **SOCIAL SECTOR**

Mission: Promote unity and understanding, tolerance, accountability, transparency and peace and order.

#### **Action Plan (General):**

1. Advocate for participatory rural assessment (PRA)
2. Community planning
  - a. Discuss community issues and concerns
  - b. Advocacy on PCID mission and vision
3. Plan implementation
4. Evaluation/ monitoring

#### **Immediately Doable**

1. Awareness-raising
  - a. Tap the tri-media (c/o Bureau of Public Information-Organization – ARMM)
  - b. Radio program (DXMS and provincial stations)
  - c. Print (thru press releases and Bangsamoro Parsugpatan – official publication of ARMM)
  - d. Production of tv plugs
  - e. Press conferences/ symposia/ and for a
  - f. Production of video documentaries focusing on the “Status of Islam and Democracy” in Mindanao

- g. Capability-building
    - i. Conduct of training on radio broadcasting
    - ii. Conduct of training for media on the production of radio/ tv documentaries
    - iii. Conduct of training on advance journalism
  - h. Immersion of media/ press people in the communities
  - i. Advertisement in national/ local dailies
2. Education
    - a. Basic functional literacy
      - i. Out-of-school youths
      - ii. Adult literacy
    - b. Formal/ informal education
    - c. Peace education
  3. Capability building
    - a. Study tour
    - b. Exposure trips
    - c. Technical trainings
  4. Infrastructure
    - a. Additional school buildings
    - b. Madaris
    - c. Hospitals
    - d. Health centers (provision of health services)
    - e. Learning centers
    - f. Livelihood development centers
    - g. Roads and bridges
  5. Enterprise development
    - a. Micro-finance
    - b. Skills training

### **ECONOMIC SECTOR**

#### **Plans: First 100 days**

1. Resource mapping
2. Business mapping
3. Develop database of best practices
4. Survey and integration of existing efforts

#### **Medium-term Plans**

1. Database utilization for planning
2. Data analysis
3. Needs assessment
4. Strategy development
5. Policy support

## Annex A: SCENARIO BUILDING

	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
ECONOMIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abundance of natural resources</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strong support from Muslim scholars, 'think tanks', religious and other sectors</li> </ul>	
POLITICAL, GOVERNANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Democratic system of governance</li> <li>- Open policy re Bangsamoro problem</li> <li>- Muslim participation in governance, re ARMM, OMA</li> <li>- Islam has its own judicial system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abuse of authority</li> <li>- Wrong leaders</li> <li>- Corruption of democracy</li> <li>- Weak understanding, misinterpretation of democracy even among Muslims</li> <li>- Abuse of authority</li> <li>- Lack of common interest</li> <li>- Centralized government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acknowledgement of Muslims with the creation of ARMM</li> <li>- Abundance of literate, educated political leaders</li> <li>- Participation in governance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poor electoral system</li> <li>- Current political structure incompatible with Islamic thought</li> <li>- Loose org structure of PCID</li> </ul>
SOCIAL, CULTURAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to open its doors without jeopardizing Islam as a religion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ignorance, illiteracy</li> <li>- Ethno-religious branding of people</li> <li>- Prejudice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Common religious belief</b></li> <li>- Presence of educated Muslims</li> <li>- Innovations, ideas</li> <li>- Freedom of exercise of religion</li> <li>- Cultural respect and relevance</li> <li>- Strong, qualified leadership inside PCID</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural divide</li> <li>- Discrimination, biases, stereotyping</li> <li>- Perceived intellectual elitism</li> </ul>

## V. **About the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy**

The Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy (PCID) is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization dedicated to the study of Islamic and democratic political thought and the search for peaceful solution to the conflict affecting the Muslim communities of Mindanao. PCID is composed of young Muslim leaders, scholars and analysts. (Annex A: Members of the Council)

The PCID organized a series of fora on Islam and Democracy in September, hosting two Muslim scholars – Drs. Radwan Masmoudi and Louay Safi - from the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy. The CSID is a non-profit organization, based in Washington DC, dedicated to studying Islamic and democratic political thought and merging them into a modern Islamic democratic discourse.

Dr. Masmoudi and Dr. Safi joined Philippine Muslim speakers in timely dialogues on issues central to the search for peace in Muslim Mindanao. The discussions and fora were held in Manila, Cotabato City, Marawi City and Zamboanga City. Participants to the various fora included political and community leaders, the academe, religious and civil society leaders.

The second series organized by PCID was on The Role of the Madaris in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with Dr. Abidullah Ghazi, founder of the Iqra Foundation. IQRA' is an association of Muslim educators, scholars, and community workers who have gathered knowledge of Islam from both traditional Islamic *madaris* and western educational institutions. These dedicated individuals are working towards the goal of applying modern instructional methodologies to the teaching of Islamic studies for Muslim children from pre-school to high school.

The PCID plans to organize future roundtable discussions and fora in Muslim Mindanao - engaging political leaders, academe, religious leaders, civil society, business – in order to attain consensus or find common ground on which to build stronger communities.