

Event report

**2nd Preconference for the Political Party Reforms Workshop-Conference
July 11, 2012
Philippine Social Science Center, Quezon City**

Prepared by the Institute for Political and Electoral Reform (IPER) and the Consortium for Political Party Reforms (CPPR), the Second Pre-Conference of the Workshop Conference on Political Party Reforms was held at the Philippine Social Science Center in Quezon City, on July 11, 2012. This Pre-Conference was supported by the United Nations Development Programme and the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, among others. The Convenors of the Workshop-Conference were the Senate Sub-Committee on Political Party Reforms, the House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, the Commission on Elections and the CPPR. Different representatives of the political parties were also represented, such as the Centrist Democratic Party (CDP), Liberal Party (LP) or Akbayan. Various bills concerning the political party bill reform have been filed by the Senate, as well as, by the House of Representatives before, however they have been consolidated at the committee level into a substitute bill.

As agreed in the First Pre-Conference on May 30, 2012, the Second Pre-Conference focused on the political parties' position on the contentious provisions of the bill on the Political Party Development Act. In line with this, political parties were asked to submit their respective position on the said provisions of the bill. The objective of this Pre-Conference was to prepare for the main conference, scheduled in August 10-12, 2012, by means of identifying the problem areas and to illustrate the diverging positions of the political parties on the bill. Therefore, the goal was not to seek for consensus, but one could see the different stances of the political stakeholders before the main conference in August.

A reform of the political parties' legal framework in the Philippines is needed in order to tackle the issue of graft and corruption in Philippine politics. For instance, political parties are weak as such, as they mainly rely on personalities instead of focusing on issues and political platforms. Moreover, this Act limits the habit of political turncoats and proposes a new system of campaign financing by state subsidy funds. In that regard, party loyalty, accountability and transparency will be fostered. Furthermore, the endemic personality-based politics will be changed to stronger adherence to political platforms and ideology.