



JUSTICE REFORM INITIATIVES SUPPORT (JURIS) PROJECT

FACT SHEET

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. The JURIS Project is a capacity building and technical assistance project that aims to contribute to the efforts of the Philippine judiciary to improve the quality of judicial services and access to justice, particularly by the poor and marginalized groups.
2. The implementing agencies of the project are the Supreme Court of the Philippines; Alternative Law Groups, Inc. (ALG, Inc.); Office of the Court Administrator; and the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA).
3. The JURIS Project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Project cost is Cdn\$6.5 Million. The Canadian executing agency is the National Judicial Institute (NJI) based in Ottawa.
4. The project's duration is from January 2003 to September 2008.
5. The JURIS Project is chaired by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, The Honorable Reynato S. Puno.
6. JURIS project components are as follows:
 - Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
Covering both Court-Annexed Mediation (CAM) and Judicial Dispute Resolution (JDR), this component targets mediation as a vehicle for de-clogging the courts while providing effective and inexpensive ways for dispute resolutions.
 - Judicial Education
Aims to strengthen the capacity of PHILJA to plan, design and deliver effective, gender sensitive, and socially responsive education and training for judges and court personnel, mediators, and lawyers.
 - Reform Advocacy Support
Networking and collaboration between the judiciary and civil society to improve the quality of judicial services and access to justice, and to empower the poor and marginalized groups to make use of judicial and quasi-judicial services. Primary vehicle for the component is the Alternative Law Groups (ALG, Inc.).

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

1. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Component

- ADR in JURIS pilot sites has contributed to the de-clogging of the court dockets. The success of ADR in the initial model court sites has created a demand for ADR services in the adjacent areas, resulting in the radiation of mediation services.

Court-Annexed Mediation (CAM) Settlement Rate
Cumulative From July 2004 to December 2007

Pilot Site	Referred	Accepted	Settled	Settlement Rate
City of San Fernando and Pampanga	5,053	3,616	2,204	60.95%
Bacolod and Negros Occidental	3,862	3,060	1,695	55.39%
Baguio and Benguet *	2,795	1,782	959	53.81%
GRAND TOTAL	11,710	8,458	4,858	57.43%

* Note: Statistics from Baguio and Benguet are from October 2006 only.

JDR Statistics: October 2006 to December 2007
Consolidated for the Five JURIS Sites

JURIS Site	Referred Cases	Underwent JDR	Settled Cases	Settlement Rate
City of San Fernando and Pampanga	1,419	1,343	391	29.1%
Bacolod City and Negros Occidental	1,703	1,297	822	63.4%
Baguio City and Benguet	2,121	1,197	329	27.5%
San Fernando City and La Union	384	306	113	36.9%
Cagayan de Oro City and Misamis Oriental	1,861	839	309	36.8%
GRAND TOTAL	7,488	4,982	1,964	39.42%

- An independent study by Reginaldo Guillen shows 76% affirms that ADR contributed to the ordinary citizen's and the marginalized sector's access to justice. Sixty-nine percent (69%) thinks that there is fairness and justice in the mediation process, while 59% says there is fairness and justice in the mediation outcome.

2. Judicial Education Component

- Sponsorship of six major study tours to Canada on:
 - a. Various ADR approaches in the court system
 - b. Designing of an ADR system appropriate to the Philippine setting
 - c. Orientation and designing of family mediation approaches
 - d. Skills-based education approaches for the judiciary
- Generation of programs for basic mediation training, training on judicial dispute resolution (JDR), and orientation for lawyers and judges on ADR.

WHO WERE TRAINED	NO. OF PEOPLE TRAINED
Judges (JDR)	219
Mediators (Basic Course)	171
Mediators (Advance Course)	71
Judge-Trainors and Mediator-Trainors	46

3. Reform Advocacy Component

1. Publication of a book called **“From the Grassroots: The Justice Reform Agenda of the Poor and the Marginalized”**, containing ALGs findings on the hopes of grassroots organizations in the field of justice.
2. Survey of various curriculums of the law schools; exploring the possibility of introducing human rights courses or law internship programs that expose law students to the legal issues affecting the poor and the marginalized.
3. Enactment into law of one of the bills that constitute the ALG priority agenda: The Juvenile Justice Act.
4. Conduct of first ever National Paralegal Conference, and back-to-back Regional Conference on Lawyering for Social Justice and Human Rights and a Donor’s Forum on the Impact of Social Justice and Human Rights Legal Programs on Poverty Alleviation, Good Governance and Other Development Goals.
6. The ALGs ability to empower the poor and marginalized is evidenced by the findings of a study¹ saying there is a marked difference between the ability of ALG partners and that of non-partners in assessing and acting on legal problems.

¹ The study, entitled *Research on the Poor Accessing Justice and the ALG as Justice Reform Advocate*, was conducted by the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

KEY TO ACRONYMS

APJR	Action Plan for Judicial Reform
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
ALG	Alternative Law Groups, Inc.
CAM	Court-Annexed Mediation
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
JDR	Judicial Dispute Resolution
JURIS	Justice Reform Initiatives Support
NJI	National Judicial Institute
PMC	Philippine Mediation Center
PHILJA	Philippine Judicial Academy

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