



PROPOSED WISDOM EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM FOR MUSLIM WOMEN IN THE PHILIPPINES

PROJECT TITLE: Wisdom Empowerment Program for Muslim Women in the Philippines:
Strategy for Advancing Women's Political, Economic and Social Rights

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Muslim women just like other women in the society have critical roles to play in developing strong, active and empowered societies. Empowering them -- giving them the right organizational learning and leadership training, education, experiences and opportunities to be part of the decision-making and heads of implementing bodies of the whole systems (i.e., educational, social, economic and political systems) -- will enhance their potentials to positively contribute to the current global call for justice, peace and development. Empowered Muslim women have extraordinary opportunities to change their societies from chaotic or sick and poor societies (given the case of predominantly Muslim dominated areas in Mindanao) to a more peaceful and developed part of the national or international body politic. If fully empowered, Muslim women become participants, stakeholders and change agents in their societies. When women are strong, their families, communities, and countries become strong to resist all sorts of problems (including extremism, violence and the like) no matter how perplexing they are. Empowered women enjoy honor, dignity, economic security, and power to establish peace with both their Muslim and non-Muslim neighbors, given their innate nature of compassion or feeling of deep sympathy to others.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wisdom Empowerment Program for Muslim Women (WEPMW) is a proposed project of the Wisdom International School for Higher Education Studies (WISHES), Inc. -- <http://www.wisdom.edu.ph>. It will be implemented by batch/group whereby each group will have 50 participants. It consists of the following interrelated specific programs/activities which are all geared toward empowerment of Muslim women: Conducting Wisdom Muslim Women's Empowerment Seminar-Workshop to Muslim women. Within the 7 days series of lectures and workshop participants are expected to have a good understanding of the following: a) Role of Muslim Women in a Democratic Society b) Strategic Planning, Organizational Learning and Leadership; c) Tips on Business writing and Practical Guide to Funding, Entrepreneurship, Volunteerism and Fund Raising; and d) Principles of Effective Conversation and Dialogue. Part of the positive measurement on the success of this project is for the participants to organize themselves into Wisdom Women Support Group and for them to commit themselves to invite other women and girls/youths as active volunteers toward empowering Muslim women for advancing their political, economic and social rights. With this project, we expect in the near future strong and dynamic united Muslim women who will be able to play active roles in nation-building as advocates of peace and development. Another activity is writing and publication of an inspirational book "Successful Muslim Women, Peace and Development". This will be given to participants and to be published in the proposed website "Empowering Muslim Women", where many readers worldwide from all walks of life can also read. All these activities will be

done within 18 months. This noble project requires a budget of about \$100,000 but with lasting positive impact on enhancing Muslim women's leadership capacities for political, economic and social rights advancements. This can also be replicated in other groups of women worldwide to promote global social justice, peace and economic development.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

For so many years and in today's so-called liberated societies, Muslim women do not have much of an influential role in decision-making and remain as a tool to implement the male chauvinistic rules that in most cases oppress them. Lack of family values, weak marital ties, promiscuity, immodesty, divorce, juvenile delinquency, domestic violence, child abuse, alcohols, gambling, drug addictions, HIV/AIDS, prostitution, extremism, dishonesty, graft and corruption, etc. keep women suffocated with perplexing problems and make them choose to remain at home or just stay as passive members of the society.

Many Muslim women are illiterates and school-leavers or dropouts. Only very few of the educated or highly educated Muslim women (with MAs or PhDs) are given empowerment to serve the society. Unfortunately, only very few empowered Muslim women do not deliver the quality of services expected of them. They lack the necessary organizational learning and leadership skills as well as moral values to serve with utmost honesty, commitment and/or dedication to work for public welfare. When faced with personal and domestic problems, the Muslim women do not have access to guidance and counseling centers or even support group of fellow professionals, dedicated social workers or volunteers who can at least comfort them.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Wisdom Empowerment Program for Muslim Women (WEPMW) will be conducted at the Wisdom Compound, Abinsay St., Davao City, Philippines. Within 18 months, at least 500 Muslim women participants will directly benefit from this project. This is to be done by batch/group where each group will have 50 participants. It consists of the following interrelated specific programs/activities which are all geared toward empowerment of Muslim women.

1. Conducting Wisdom Muslim Women's Empowerment Seminar-Workshop to Muslim women. Within the 7 days series of lectures and workshop participants are expected to learn at least 80% of the following:
 - a) Role of Muslim Women in a Democratic Society (Women's Political, Economic and Social Rights and Active Role in the Society to Promote Justice, Peace, Good Governance, Clean and Honest Election, etc.) (1 day)
 - b) Strategic Planning, Organizational Learning and Leadership (Includes topics on vision-driven planning, scenario development, strategic gap analysis, implementation and monitoring (using key performance indicators), personal mastery, team building and learning, building shared vision, mental models and mindset shift, systems thinking, stress management, time management, authentic leadership and conflict resolution) (2 Days)
 - c) Tips on Business writing and Practical Guide to Funding, Entrepreneurship, Volunteerism and Fund Raising (1 day)
 - d) Principles of Effective Conversation and Dialogue, How to Gain Confidence in Public Speaking, and Principles of Personality Development and Success (1day)
 - e) Formal Organization of Participants, Workshops and Feedbacks/Evaluation (2 days)

2. Encouraging participants from various cities/areas to organize themselves into Wisdom Women Support Group and be able to plan to recruit volunteers from their localities to put up an office where they can have weekly meeting for issues or programs related to empowering Muslim women and their roles in promoting justice, peace and development. One project they can consider is to have fund raising to put up affordable day care/pre-school learning centers for the children of working Muslim women. This can be made possible by making use of public mosques as meeting/guidance place and day care center (temporarily while funding for rent or construction of a small building is not yet available. Note that mosques can be used as learning and meeting center at the same time. (This activity is to be done during the Organization and Workshops which is the 6th day of the series of seminar-workshop.)
3. Writing and publication of an inspirational book “Successful Muslim Women, Peace and Development” (Muslim women readers will learn how to attain success and to be motivated to work hard in order to succeed in this world as they are agents of Peace and Development. Non-Muslim readers will understand that real Muslims are peace-loving people. In effect this book will foster better understanding of non-Muslims toward Muslims. This is to be given free (if finance will permit) to university libraries in the Philippines to major universities worldwide. Dr. Norlain Dindang Mababaya, the proponent of this project will write this book (within 18 months). She has written over 70 books and articles, her husband Dr. Mamarinta Mababaya also an author will edit/proofread it (Note: If this cannot be published due to lack of funds then the manuscripts will be sent by email to all participants); and
4. Creation of a website on Empowering Muslim Women (This will include the lectures of the resource speakers invited during the Muslim Program. It will publish the contents of the book on “Successful Muslim Women, Peace and Development”. This website will provide a forum not only for Muslim women but also the rest of women worldwide to share their knowledge and experiences in empowering women and how they can play active role to help solve the problems and challenges affecting humanity especially women and children in all parts of the world.

Beneficiaries

There are 7 groups who are beneficiaries to this project:

1. 500 Muslim women professionals who are participants to the Muslim Women’s Empowerment Seminar-Workshop
2. Administrators and staff,
3. Muslim women volunteers,
4. Speakers or resource persons for the training program who will be given opportunities to meet and interact with Muslim women from various fields,
5. Readers of the proposed book on “Successful Muslim Women, Peace and Development”, and
6. Worldwide visitors/guests to the proposed website on Empowering Muslim Women.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- Wisdom Social Hall — this is a three-storey air-conditioned building which has a well-equipped lecture/social hall, a meeting room, office, guest rooms, and cafeteria.
- Wisdom Multipurpose Building — this three-storey air-conditioned has a mosque for men (in the first/ground floor), women prayer room (2nd floor) and 3 big classrooms (3rd floor). Each floor has office and 3 comfort rooms.
- One-storey air-conditioned building for board and lodging of participants.
- Laptops, desktop PC computers, LCD Projector, LCD TV, Internet facilities

NEEDED RESOURCES

Administration and Staff

- Project Director (full time) The Project Director will be Dr. Norlain Dindang Mababaya (author of this proposed project) (volunteer)
- Project Coordinator (full time) • Secretary (full time) • 2 Staff part time
- 7 Trainers/resource persons

Equipment & Supplies

Budget for 18 Months Starting October 2010 or Later Depending on Funds Availability

Dr Norlain Dindang Mababaya, Project Director/Volunteer, assisted by Dr Omar Mababaya

Honoraria/Allowances		Amount in US\$
Exec. Assistant/Secretary	Full time for 18 months US\$ 300/mo	US\$5,400
2 Staff	Part time for 18 months US\$ 150/mo	US\$ 2,700
5 Trainers/resource persons for each group/batch	Honorarium (10 batches) US\$1,500 per/batch	US\$15,000
5 staff volunteers	Honorarium US\$ 100 eachx10 batches	US\$5,000
Transportation 5 Trainers/resource persons for each group/batch	Manila to Davao US\$120x5=600x10	US\$ 6,000
Meeting resource persons (5) participants (500) from airport to Wisdom compound (+)	Two way by air conditioned taxi US\$4x505=	US\$ 2,020
Accommodation Participants & trainers' accommodation	Participants (sharing Accommodation)US\$6x500=US\$1050x7nights= US\$ 21,000 Trainers/speakers US\$37x5= US\$ 370	US\$21,370
Food & Snacks (3 meals & 2 snacks) (Participants, resource persons, staff & volunteers)=515	515 people 7 days @ US\$10/day	US\$36,050
Seminar Kits/Handouts, programs, certificates, etc.	500x US\$12.92/participant	US\$6,460
Total		US\$100,000

EVALUATION PLAN

To ensure the success of this project, there will be evaluation at the end of every activity. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs – Number of women successfully trained; number of seminars and workshops actually done; number of dedicated women volunteers and wisdom support groups organized; participants' feedback/rating, etc.) will be defined to measure the success of the project. A questionnaire (both structured and unstructured) will be given to every participant at the end of the program for assessment. The results will be summarized and analyzed for program enhancement purposes. For the organization of Wisdom Women Support Group, the Program Director and Coordinator of this project will spend their resources to follow-up each group to see the status of their group – what actions/plans/programs have they done so far. For the book which will be posted on the website, we will request readers to rate it (using the structured rating from 1-5 with 5 as the highest.). We will do the same rating with the website.

EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE PROJECT

Muslim women participants of this project will become more open-minded and liberal in interpreting the universal values of moderation and tolerance -- not extremism and terrorism. The project when successfully implemented will have lasting positive impact on enhancing Muslim women's leadership capacities for political, economic and social rights advancements. In other words this project is a vital strategy for advancing women's political, economic and social rights.

DESCRIPTION, TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES OF WISDOM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES (WISHES)

Wisdom International School for Higher Education Studies (WISHES) -- <http://www.wisdom.edu.ph> -- is the first international online school recognized by the Philippine government through the Commission on Higher Education, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (CHED-ARMM) as an accredited institution of higher learning for higher Islamic Studies (Diploma, BA, MA and Doctoral degree programs) and other degree programs relevant to professional growth, well-balanced personality and ultimate success. The school (WISHES) is officially registered in the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under Registration No. 200526387 dated March 10, 2005 as a non-stock, non-profit institution of higher learning.

WISHES as an international institute has organized a number of local, national and international seminars in cooperation with other organizations, including the office of the the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and the Mindanao State University (MSU). The following are the brief profiles of the WISHES founders and officials:

Dr. Norlain Dindang Mababaya

- WISHES Co-Founder and Chairman
- Doctor of Education in Educational Administration as a UP college scholar
- Author of more than 70 books and articles; Organizer of various local and international seminars especially for women expatriates in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia;
- Has been a lecturer on various topics since 1977; and has travelled to various countries and cities worldwide.

Dr. Mamarinta (Omar) Mababaya

- WISHES Co-Founder and President
- Senior Consultant and Strategic Partner, Business Spirals TransAsia;
- PhD, Westminster Business School, University of Westminster in London, United Kingdom (2002); Visiting Scholar, School for Postgraduate and Interdisciplinary

Research on Interculturalism & Transnationality (SPIRIT), Aalborg University, Denmark

- Teaching Fellow, School of Economics, University of the Philippines; Economics & Marketing Lecturer at the College of Administration & Business Studies at Kaduna Polytechnic, Nigeria
- Worked for SABIC, Saudi Arabia as Strategic Planner, Business Information and Research Analyst, Marketing Analyst, Marketing Research Specialist, Economist and Planning Specialist
- Lectured on various subjects in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, London, Denmark, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines. Attended international conferences in various places worldwide (including Russia, Europe, USA/North America, Middle East, Asia and Africa)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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