

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

This research sets out address the research question “*How did JICA contribute to the Philippine- Moro conflict resolution?*”

As a development agency JICA has been facilitating Moro- Philippine conflict even after the peace negotiations reached a stalemate in October 2008. Their effort towards peace has been a new approach that includes development aid as the main peacemaking endeavors. JICA uses a ‘bottom-up’ approach and put an importance on the communities of Mindanao. This approach also reflect what peacebuilding means for JICA, that the removal of violent conflict is not enough for them, instead addressing the root causes of the Philippine- Moro conflict that includes structural and cultural violence. JICA’s involvement in fulfilling the needs of the people who experienced injustice help solves inter and intra- community conflict and build a better and more stable condition so that peace talks can ensue. This fits well with the conflict transformation theory, and help face challenges that occurs during the peace process.

JICA provides assistance for various programs to help ensure lasting peace in Mindanao. JICA’s programs and activities help address the underlying issue of the conflict, thus contributing in the process of facing challenges that the government of Philippine and the Bangsamoro face in finding a resolution. These issues include:

Factionalism, the difficulty of committing into the cease-fire, and lastly the financial crisis in Mindanao where many people are living near and below the poverty

line.

The projects that JICA provided focus on building small-scale infrastructure, training the people of Mindanao and the officials in things such as building a better market, making a proposal and many others. This focus on capacity building also involves the concerns of the Residents in Mindanao. Thus, a lot of the projects tackle issues such as the need of stronger education, programs and overall stronger institution for the people of Mindanao and those who share the same aspiration with the MILF Organization.

JICA also focuses on building programs and establishing activities that focuses on; strengthening a foundation for sustainable economic growth by doing infrastructure projects, and economic development projects that support the industries in Mindanao, ensuring human security for inclusive economic growth by doing projects for building public securities such as hospitals, roads, education spaces, and many more, as well as donating funds for disaster relief, and finally establishing peace and stability in Mindanao by doing campaigns and educating the communities about peacebuilding, and strengthening and assisting ARMM governments in hope of a good governance.

Human security, economic growth and establishing peace and stability is important to undertake the challenges and factors that causes and keep the conflict going. Aside from keeping attacks and violence to occur, it is important to address the underlying injustice and discriminatory attitude that the people of Mindanao faces, and fix the wide developmental gaps between the island of Mindanao and the rest of Philippines.

The steps and strategies that JICA took to face the challenges during the peace process concluded that their ‘bottom- up’ approach and putting an importance on the voices of the communities in Mindanao by giving developmental assistance and aid is just as important in conflict resolution.

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