

SEED

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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1.5 The Possible New Partnerships Development to Extend the Work and Impact of the SEED Program

By Joseph Rosal, De La Salle University, Philippines & Fernando Mulia, Parahyangan Catholic University, Indonesia

Participation in any developmental initiative needs active collaboration among stakeholders. This is essentially true since development programs by nature, is extensive and requires varied resources across timeframes.

Development partners in social enterprise activities may include among others, educative institutions such as schools and universities, informal education communities, civil society organizations like nongovernmental and non-profit groups, corporate social responsibility department of industries and corporations, local government units or national government agencies and the local communities. These institutions may have different reasons for existing but can be harnessed to be aligned with the SEED approach.

Universities in the past have been labelled as ivory towers by those engaged in grassroots development work since most have noticed the seemingly detached conduct of researches. However, since most tertiary education institutions have now been emphasizing the three foundation of their existence, which are research, instruction and community engagement, there are a vast growing number of these colleges and universities implementing developmental meaningful projects. In fact, quite a number of these have socially relevant researches influencing national and local policies to actual involvement in direct social services in communities. In the future we hope that education institution could be a light tower so it could guide society to a better condition.

There are two critical elements of partnership building in SEED that needs to be given attention. One is principled partnership

and the other, observance of the principle of subsidiarity. Principled partnership refers to actual collaboration work among developmental institutions that is anchored on common belief, goal, expectation or direction. In effect, there is no coercion, no railroading, no compromise but only a shared vision among the stakeholders. The other critical element of partnership building in SEED is observing the principle of subsidiarity. This refers to the non-replication of activities being done by a bigger entity by a smaller group. In short, avoiding duplication of developmental efforts, services and projects by other movements.

Partnership building may be done in three phases. Pre-SEED implementation or conceptualization, During-SEED implementation and Post-SEED implementation. The given number of stakeholder partners may not change however, their commitment in the SEED approach would differ on the phases. This is to ensure that the partnership hinges on a strategy or approach wherein a SEED project continue to build on the gains of a previous SEED engagement ensuring relevance, sustainability and empowerment to all the stakeholders.

Partnership building activities in Pre-SEED implementation include levelling off from among the stakeholders on the SEED concept, discussion on how SEED complements other community engagement efforts by other institutions in the given area and drafting of the common SEED plan of action emphasizing the suggested role and function of each participating stakeholder. Partnership building activities during SEED implementation is merely the monitoring of the suggested stakeholder role and function based on the common SEED plan of action. Indicators to be monitored include: timeliness of interventions, provision of logistical and human resources and appropriateness of output. Post SEED implementation partnership building is the extraction of learning from the SEED processes highlighting both facilitating