**Overview**

A prosperous government prepares and plans for the future. By funding research to develop new projects to increase sustainability or by producing new facilities, advantageous governments invest in the future. The Philippines believes in this principle and funds projects to help sustainability, development and prosperity. Through the development of infrastructure, sustainable food sources and improvement in labour migration policies the Philippines looks to better itself in order to prosper in the future.

**Topic 1:**

The region of South East Asia has been characterized as an area of strong economic potential with emphasis being placed on its prospect for development.1 The Philippines exemplifies this potential with its many ongoing projects that will develop and improve the regions infrastructure. Over 3.28 billion USD has been supplied by both the Department of Transportation and the Department of Public Works and Highways to develop and improve the transportation facilities and infrastructure.2-9 This funding has been used to construct projects such as the NAIA Expressway Project, a 4-lane 7.75km elevated expressway that will provide direct access to the NAIA terminals and link to other major expressways which allows for improved transportation.6 Additionally, it has been suggested that improved transportation can have a direct positive impact on the economic situation of the region.14 The NAIA Expressway would improve accessibility which could improve business activity, productivity and employment. Similarly to the NAIA Expressway, the Automatic Fare Collection System seeks to increase the productivity and efficiency of transportation. The Automatic Fare Collection System hopes to reduce inconvenience due to ticket payment delays and to increase collection efficiency by reducing leakage and fraud.9 This updated system allows for improved transportation which can directly affect economic prosperity.14 In addition to the transportation projects, the Philippines also have made improvements to the education system. The PPP for School Infrastructure Project has the objective to improve the education system by financing and constructing about 9,303 one-storey and two-storey classrooms.10 Phase I of the project has been completed and there have been 9,296 classrooms constructed. Phase II of development is currently ongoing and they are building 4,370 one-storey, two-storey, three-storey and four-storey classrooms.11 These new classrooms will not only allow more students to have access to new education centers but they also prepare for the future by establishing sufficient facilities to educate future generations. The development of infrastructure is crucial to reach the economic potential of South East Asia. The Philippines are funding many active projects to assist in building effective infrastructure for the future.

**Topic 2:**

Sustainable food sources are not only more beneficial to the environment but also prepare for the future. A country that has sustainable food can plan for the future resulting in more efficient and environmentally friendly methods. The Philippines has sustainable and environmentally friendly crops currently being grown. In Baragay Salog farmers grow seaweed as a source of supplemental income.1 This method is notable due to its lack of land preparation or fertilizer. As a result seaweed crops are resilient to droughts and heavy rain while also remaining environmentally friendly.1 They remain environmentally friendly due to their ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and the excellent habitat it creates for flourishing fish populations. The future of food is not only affected by growing methods but is largely impacted by climate change. The Philippines has several active climate change projects whose objectives are to reduce the affects and severity of climate change. For example there is the Philippine Climate Change Adaptation Project which hopes to assist and strengthen the capabilities of government agencies involved in climate change adaptation.16 The projects primary beneficiaries include the farmers who often suffer from climate-related losses and communities in the uplands and coastal areas whose livelihood depend directly on natural resources. Projects like these and the development of sustainable crops assist the longevity of the Philippines and its ability to remain environmentally friendly.

**Topic 3:**

In 2015 the International Organization for Migration recorded 244 million people who resided in a country other than their country of birth.18 With global migration numbers higher than ever it is crucial that countries offer adequate protection to their immigrants. In 2012 the Philippines’ net migration was -700,000.19 Being a labour exporting country the Philippines has many policies in place to protect and assist migrants who are working overseas. The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration has a registration system for overseas Filipino workers that requires the applicant to supply 13 different types of identification/qualifications.20 In addition to the application process, the POEA has also sent several warnings and advisories to help migrants spot false job advertisements.21 Along with these warnings they have also made legal charges to false job offerors. For example the POEA had found fake Swiss job offers and arrested two illegal recruiters for posting false job advertisements.22 By taking these actions the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration have been proactive at keeping emigrating migrants safe and secured. In addition to the POEA, the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 declares policies and objectives with the goal to promote and enforce migrant security. This act is essential to the Philippines since worker migration has a notable effect on the Filipino economy due to the fact that about 10% of the Filipino population is currently working overseas as migrants. The act states that “the State shall, at all times, uphold the dignity of its citizens whether in country or overseas, in general, and Filipino migrant workers”.25 Furthermore the act states, “The State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all”.25 These particular policies are accompanied by additional declarations which collectively achieve the goal of stating that the Philippines recognizes the significant contribution that Filipino migrant workers make to the national economy, and that the State will assure migrant workers are given adequate security and ensure equality to all migrants. The contributions from the POEA and Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 are set in place to ensure migrant security and adequate resources are utilized to protect the large sector of migrant workers.

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