



commission for environmental impact assessment

Royal Netherlands Embassy
Attn. Mr Kwint
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Manila
THE PHILIPPINES

your reference
MAN/OS

your letter
18 February 1998

our reference
U98/Kh/ep/032-75

subject
Advice on the Laguna the Bay project,
the Guidelines project and the combined
proposal on Coastal and Environmental
development in the Philippines

direct phone number
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Utrecht (the Netherlands),
11 May 1998

Dear Mr Ambassador,

The Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the Netherlands has welcomed your request, dated 18 February 1998, to give advice on the environmental relevance and prioritisation of the Laguna de Bay project, the Guidelines project and the combined proposal on Coastal and Environmental development in the Philippines.

Enclosed, I submit the advice prepared by a joined Philippines/Netherlands working group of the Commission for EIA. This advice differs from other advices of the Commission on Dutch development cooperation activities because it primarily deals with environmental reviewing of project proposals at the request of the Netherlands Embassy in Manila. If the recommendations in this advice will be taken into consideration the Commission is willing to act in an advisory capacity concerning future EIA developments in the Philippines.

Besides, I would like to draw your attention to the following:

- The Commission is of the opinion that integrated coastal zone planning and management is necessary to sustain the functions of the Manila Bay for the future. Presently, the right institutional setting for this is lacking. Especially, because of the fact that an authority / authorised institute for successful implementation is not yet present. In this respect an expansion of the mandate of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) to Manila Bay might be an option in the future.

I understand that consideration was already given to expand the authority of the LLDA to cover the Pasig river, particularly with respect to "the polluters pay principle". However, this option is not practical in the short term because legislation would have to be passed by the Congress.

- The Commission offers to prepare an advice for the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the guidelines project. The already agreed present ToR should then be expanded. Furthermore, the Commission offers to review the final draft of these guidelines.
- The Commission will react positively on an eventual request of the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to be involved in the first Environmental Impact Assessment which will be conducted on basis of above mentioned guidelines.
- With respect to the project of the LLDA, the Commission offers to assist with drafting of specific guidelines for the EIA on dredging activities in the Laguna de Bay.
- The Commission's recommendations deal only with the subject matter itself and consequently not with budgetary aspects.
- The Commission would like to remain informed and offers to be involved in an advisory capacity in the further development of the projects.

In case this advice needs further explanation, the Commission is to your disposition.

With kind regards,



D. de Zeeuw
Chairman of the working group
of the Commission for EIA