

PRIMEX Global Compact 2011

PRIMEX projects continue to demonstrate its adherence to the principles of Global Compact by instituting its core values either in the design and implementation of development projects it has won from various multilateral financial institutions, or through its in-house staff activities.

As one of the firm's core areas of expertise, environmental management remains PRIMEX's area of operation where Global Compact principles are mostly reflected. The newly-launched Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project which the company implements for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Bukidnon, Southern Philippines, for instance, not only promotes greater environmental responsibility and accountability among local government units (LGUs) in the area but also ensures that human rights of indigenous peoples in the area are rightly protected in the process of pursuing capacity development for LGUs and similar stakeholders. Its growing involvement in protecting our marine environment has created a momentum of awareness among the international community after it led the implementation of an ADB project on Regional Cooperation on Knowledge Management, Policy, and Institutional Support to the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI).

PRIMEX recently established a non-profit organization which hosts many of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects—the PRIMEX Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD). The organization has served as a development catalyst, field-level development facilitator, or a conduit of donor assistance to community-based organizations (CBOs) or people's organizations (POs) and has so far implemented projects on (i) policy review and formulation, (ii) governance and empowerment, (iii) participatory resource management, (iv) community development, (v) capacity building of NGOs involved in HIV and AIDS.

A recently-concluded Enhancement of Food Security in the Visayas (EFOZ) project for the German development agency GIZ (formerly GTZ) reflected the firm's promotion of the principles of human rights specifically indigenous peoples (IP) rights, environment, and governance. The project aimed to sustainably increase food security and agricultural, fisheries and forestry productivity in the target region and beyond through: a) cash-for-work measures for social rural infrastructure projects to directly inject cash into poor rural households and to stimulate local economies. b) assistance to projects aiming at directly increasing agricultural, fisheries and forestry production and productivity, and c) promotion of crop insurance schemes. The parametric crop insurance targets at least 5,000 farm households in Leyte.

The project promoted a sense of volunteerism of members of the community, developed new skills for the farmer organizations such as on construction (rip-rapping and hollow block making), set up a revolving fund for the farmers as initiated by the LGU, promoted a new technology in using hybrid/certified rice, organic fertilizer, raised the appreciation of farmers on the value of crop insurance, and increased environmental awareness on children/family.

On Health, PRIMEX's projects focused on prevention of spread of HIV and Avian flu, and Environmental Health in a mining project area. PRIMEX's support to Global Compact environmental Principles 8 & 9 stood out in the firm's involvement in Transport Corridor Project in Kazakhstan, where we handled the resettlement concerns in order to protect the rights of the communities who will be displaced as a result of the infrastructure Project.

Progress in PRIMEX internal policies

Employees have a particular duty to safeguard the health and safety of themselves and all others who may be affected by their acts or omissions. Some personnel will be required to attend trainings on health and safety procedures. The Office gives staff free vaccine shots and maintains first aid kits.

HIV/AIDS Program. Attention is drawn to the implementation of the HIV/AIDS program using the Employers' Handbook for Action: Managing HIV/AIDS in the Workplace, where employees are required to cooperate in its implementation.

Drug and Alcohol Policy. The Company realizes that the misuse of drugs and alcohol impairs employee health and productivity. Drug and alcohol problems result in unsafe working conditions for all employees and customers. The company has always made it clear to staff that any employee involved in the unlawful use, sale, manufacturing, dispensing or possession of controlled substances, illicit drugs and alcohol on Company premises or work sites, or working under the influence of such substances, will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal and referral for prosecution.

Safety Policy. The Company is sincerely interested in the safety and well-being of our employees. The Company will make every effort to keep the office equipment in excellent condition and make sure that all safety devices are working properly. If, in spite of our efforts to ensure safe working conditions, an employee has an accident or becomes ill on the job, it should be reported to the manager immediately. They will see that prompt medical attention is provided.