ANSA EAST ASIA PACIFIC

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability
in East Asia and the Pacific

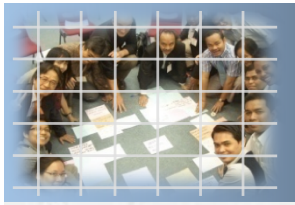
. . . connecting citizens to improve governance

Bantay Lansangan: Constructive Engagement Workshop

09-10 September 2010

Eden Resort, Davao City

Philippines



Workshop objectives:

- Explain social accountability, constructive engagement, dialogue, consensus building within BL context
- Identify issues and challenges in BL's constructive engagement
- Identify strategies and tools of constructive engagement
- Conceptualize ways of adapting strategies and tools to BL
- Plan actions to strengthen constructive engagement in BL

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Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Q1: Present situation

Q2: Desired situation

Q3: Approaches and strategies

Q4: Actions

1. Enriching perspectives and deepening understanding

2. Framing choices and deliberating

3. Deciding

4. Acting

Dialogue journey: Strengthening CE in BL

Skills enhancement in CE

Problem solving, preparing for negotiations, organized thinking

Stakeholder analysis

Framing messages

Effective communication

Negotiation

Consensus building

Our Milestones

We have …

- Identified gains and challenges in CE within BL
- Articulated our shared vision of CE in BL
- Levelled off on our CE framework (BL as SAc)
- Initial framework for capacity building in CE
- Shared appreciation of skills and tools in CE

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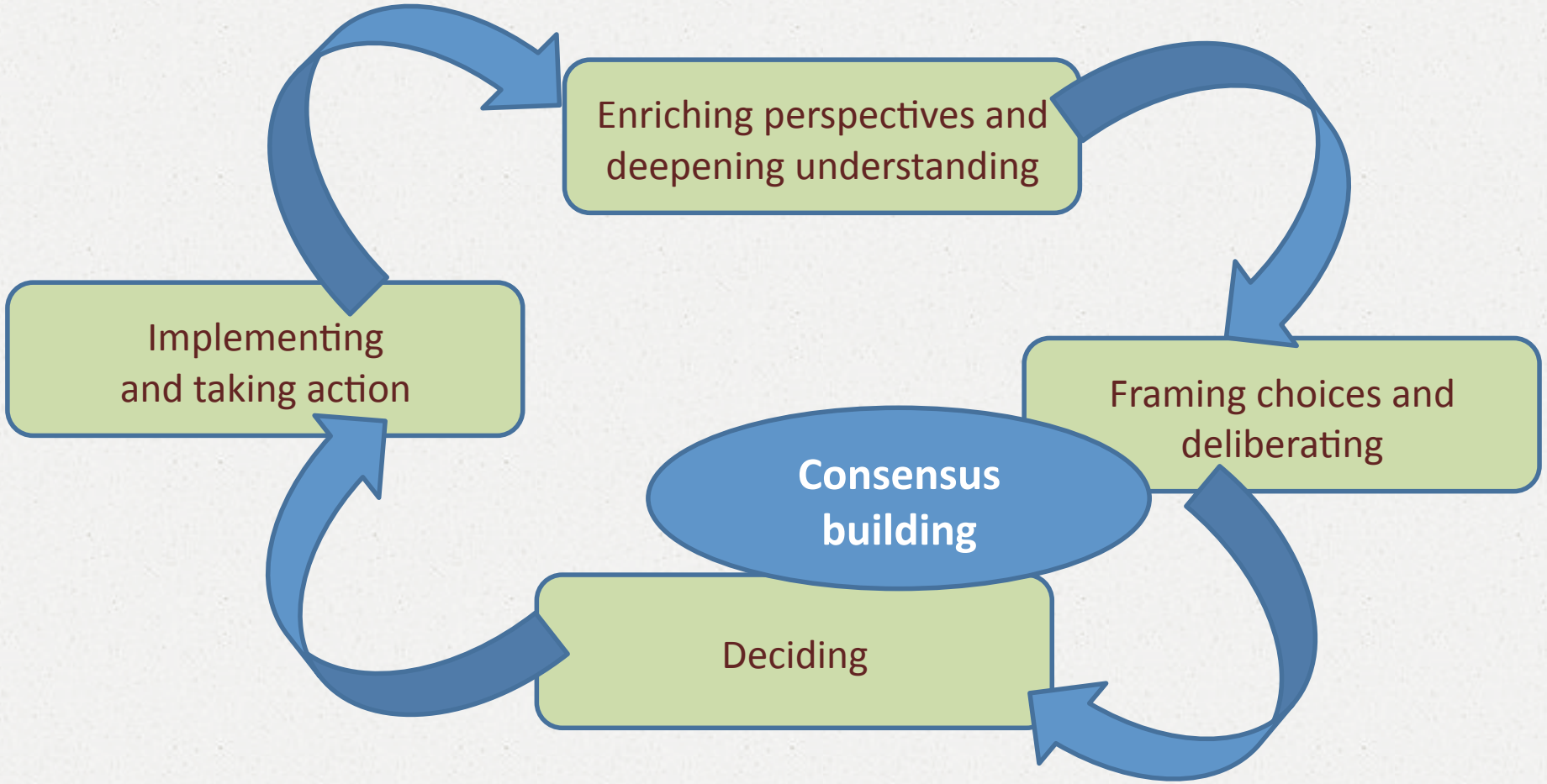
Consensus building

Consensus building

- "Shared thought"
- Dialogue is expanding, while consensus building is narrowing
- Principles:
  - should be inclusive
  - not complete agreement
  - seeking decision with which everyone is comfortable
  - reducing list of options
  - emergence of course of action

Situating consensus building in our dialogue process



Exercise

- List key lessons/insights from the workshop (identify at least 10)
- How can each lesson be applied to BL towards enhancing its CE practice?
- Based on the resulting ideas, try to build consensus on a list of 3 priority applications

Value of consensus building

- Coming to a **formal decision** or agreement on the results of our "exploration" in a dialogue
- Helps clarify **core values** behind choices and decision points on alternative paths forward
- Minimizes danger of any **resurgent suspicions or conflicts** resulting from decision process
- Sustains **spirit of dialogue** (as joint inquiry) through the latter stages of decision-making

Some tips

- Inquiring into nature of disagreements: ranking
  - 4 agree
  - 3 generally agree
  - 2 need more info
  - 1 do not agree
- Agreeing where we disagree
- Ground rules for decision-making process