

OPEN CONTRACTING IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND

SPRINTER



Redempto Parafina
Executive Director
ANSA-EAP Foundation, Inc.



Chad Patrick Osorio
Open Contracting in the Classroom and
Beyond Coordinator



Political Science students listening to a
class lecture on Social Accountability
and Open Contracting.

Project Sites

Region 4A and the National Capital Region of the Philippines

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific

Launched in 2008, the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA - EAP) is a networking facility that aims to contribute to fostering good governance. This contribution is expected to manifest in improved local service delivery, strengthened citizens' rights and better people's welfare by mainstreaming social accountability in the region.

ANSA - EAP's vision is to help improve governance by mainstreaming the social accountability approach while upholding the East Asia and Pacific region's diverse culture and norms. ANSA - EAP builds partnerships with and among various stakeholders -- citizen groups, non-government organizations, civic associations, media, academe, the business sector, and government institutions -- and sets the environment for constructive engagement, especially on issues that pertain to good governance and transparency. The Network encourages citizens to monitor government performance, specifically, the quality of public service delivery and the transparency of public transactions.

The Dissemination Project

Working together with four professors coming from different Philippine universities and who are recognized in their own fields of expertise, the Open Contracting in the Classroom and Beyond (OCCB) project of ANSA-EAP pushes for the advocacy of open contracting within the academic community. Drawing on the capacity of students as citizen monitors, the OCCB project encourages the adoption and wider application of open contracting through learning and practice. The project consisted of four phases: the OC Writeshop, the Cascading of Lessons, Research and Field Work, and the OC Symposium. The professors participated in a writeshop to develop a module to integrate the ideas of social accountability and open contracting into their respective lesson plans. Through the course of one semester, students worked individually or in groups to evaluate contractual obligations and, through the extensive network of the participating university professors and ANSA-EAP, provide feedback to the government agencies concerned in the hopes of foreseeing responsive action on the part of the government. At the end of the school semester, the student participants shared their different ideas and works to a wider audience in an OC symposium that was held on March 10, 2014. Videos and presentations during the Open Contracting Symposium are easily accessible on the website of ANSA-EAP.

The Classroom Setting: An Ideal Avenue of Dissemination

The classroom is an ideal jumping board for guiding students to apply lessons in public disclosure of contracts through both ideological critiquing and actual experiences of engaging government agencies. In the process, they are also encouraged to connect with other civil society organizations to assist them in the advocacy. It is after that students are required to create their own outputs based on what they've learned during the discussions and in the field. Empowering professors and students of different fields via the classroom setting as regards social accountability, with a special focus on open contracting, was effective in disseminating the OC advocacy. It promoted not only their critical thinking when it comes to analyzing technicalities seen in government contracts; it also encouraged creativity, on how to create outputs, like reflection papers, videos and the likes, in order to further promote the OC advocacy to their peers and to a greater public audience.



ANSA-EAP is a non-profit foundation registered in the Philippines. It is housed in the Ateneo School of Government under the Ateneo de Manila University. It was set up in 2008 as a project of the Ateneo School of Government, a unit of the Ateneo de Manila University, with start-up support from the World Bank's Development Grant Facility (2008-2011).

For more information, please contact:
Teresa Briones

Social Accountability Cluster Head

Gladys Honey F. Selosa

Open Contracting Grants Coordinator

Ateneo School of Government, Pacifico Ortiz Hall,

Fr. Arrupe Road, Ateneo de Manila University,

Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108,

Republic of the Philippines

Telefax: +6 32 4266062

Email: info@ansa-eap.net

PHASES OF THE PROJECT



Writeshop



Cascading of Lessons



Research and Fieldwork



OC Symposium

The Open Contracting Symposium



As the fourth and last phase of the Open Contracting in the Classroom and Beyond project, the professors and their students were invited to an OC Symposium that was held on March 10, 2014, at the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) and hosted by the Center for Policy and Executive Development. Students were given the opportunity to showcase their different outputs to a wider audience, compare and contrast their findings with other students from different fields and coming from different perspectives, and share their ideas on constructive engagement and citizen monitoring via tools such as Open Contracting. The activity was in the form of an open forum, where selected student-presenters were allotted a certain period of time to discuss their outputs. Questions and comments from other participants, professors and guests were entertained afterwards. The projects of the six student groups that were selected to present are enumerated as follows: Contract Monitoring Tool Janitorial Services North Sector, Contract Monitoring tool Presentation, UP Janitorial Services Contract: A Monitoring Exercise, Le Petit Prince, Open Contracting 1, and Open Contracting 2.

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The Professors



Flordeliz Lualhati-Abanto

Flordeliz Lualhati-Abanto is a professor of mass communication at St. Scholastica's College-Manila and is producer and co-host of a multi-awarded weekly radio program, Diskarte that is broadcasted nationwide over DZRH.



Maynard V. Matammu

Maynard V. Matammu is an instructor at the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance.



Jocelyn C. Cuaresma

Jocelyn C. Cuaresma is an associate professor of public administration at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. She was college secretary of the U.P. National College of Public Administration and Governance and director of U.P. Center for Public Administration and Governance Education for two non-consecutive terms.



Jalton Garces Taguibao

Jalton Garces Taguibao is an assistant professor of political science at the Department of the Political Science, College of Social Sciences, University of the Philippines-Diliman.

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