

# Strengthening Public Service Integrity:

## Multi-sectoral Anti-Corruption Programs and Enhanced Disclosure Mechanism



### PHILIPPINE PAPER PRESENTATION

13th SEA-PAC Principals Meeting  
EDSA Shangri-La Manila, Philippines  
27 November 2017 | 4:20 – 4:45 p.m.

**MELCHOR ARTHUR H. CARANDANG**

Overall Deputy Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman, Republic of the Philippines



“corruption and related crimes become transnational and sophisticated, by the day”

“putting premium to collective and intergovernmental anti-corruption cooperation...recognizing that the anti-corruption agenda is not solely a business of the government but is a stake for state and non-state actors, alike.”



# | Corruption Prevention Programs



Monitoring of performance of key government agencies through the Integrity Management Program

# | Corruption Prevention Programs



## Integrity, Transparency, and Accountability in Public Service (ITAPS) Program

In 2017 alone, the National Integrity Center conducted a total of **41 batches** of ITAPS -> **1,740** capacitated stakeholders from January to October 2017

# | Corruption Prevention Programs



## Continuous Training

trial advocacy skills, legal draftsmanship, case analysis, and specialized investigative areas such as fraud audit, forensic accounting, forensic engineering, environmental assessment tools and anti-money laundering laws

# | Corruption Prevention Programs



## Blue Certification Program

designed to revalidate **mainstreaming of the anti-red tape standards** prescribed for Business Permits and Licensing Offices (BPLOs) in local government transactions. The Program has established a multi-level certification for compliant LGUs, which is similar to the ISO-certification for management system standards. While there is a validation exercise, this type of measure highlights an incentive-based approach to compliance.



# | Corruption Prevention Programs

## Environmental Ombudsman Program

aims to ensure proper implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, and handle complaints against public officers and employees for violations of environmental laws.

### Pilot Program: **Solid Waste Management Voluntary Compliance Project**

- > 50 complaints filed and are being investigated
- > Public forums and public hearings conducted
- > (8) fact-finding panels created to investigate the following clusters:  
NCR, Isabela, Pampanga, Quezon, Palawan, Legazpi City, Visayas (Cebu, Iloilo, and Tacloban), and  
Mindanao (Cagayan De Oro, and Koronadal)
- > Environmental experiential and practical training program





# | Corruption Prevention Programs



## Investment Ombudsman Program

aims to encourage local and foreign investments in the country, and improve global competitiveness through prompt action on investor-related grievances and speedy resolution of investors' complaints.

envisioning stronger public and private sector partnerships, the entry and expansion of businesses – both local and foreign, and the creation of jobs and other income opportunities.

# | Corruption Prevention Programs



## Corruption Prevention Units

formal and non-partisan organization from the **private sector** and **civil society** that is duly accredited by the Office of the Ombudsman **to undertake corruption prevention initiatives**

# | Corruption Prevention Programs



## Graft and Corruption Prevention Teaching Exemplars

Integration of these modules in the subjects of elementary and secondary students in public schools is through Department of Education Memorandum No. 237. The objective of the integration in the schools subjects is to prepare students to become responsible citizens and upright public servants in due time.

# | Corruption Prevention Programs



## Campus Integrity Crusaders

non-partisan **school-based** youth organization  
recognized by a secondary or tertiary educational  
institution and duly accredited by the Office of the  
Ombudsman to **empower the youth** in their  
**involvement in corruption prevention initiatives**

# | UNCAC Implementation Review



## Second Cycle review on UNCAC Chapters II (Prevention) and V (Asset Recovery)

Proposed reforms on asset recovery: allow direct filing of a petition for forfeiture, without conducting a preliminary examination akin to preliminary investigation for the respondent not be alerted and prompted to dissipate his or her assets.

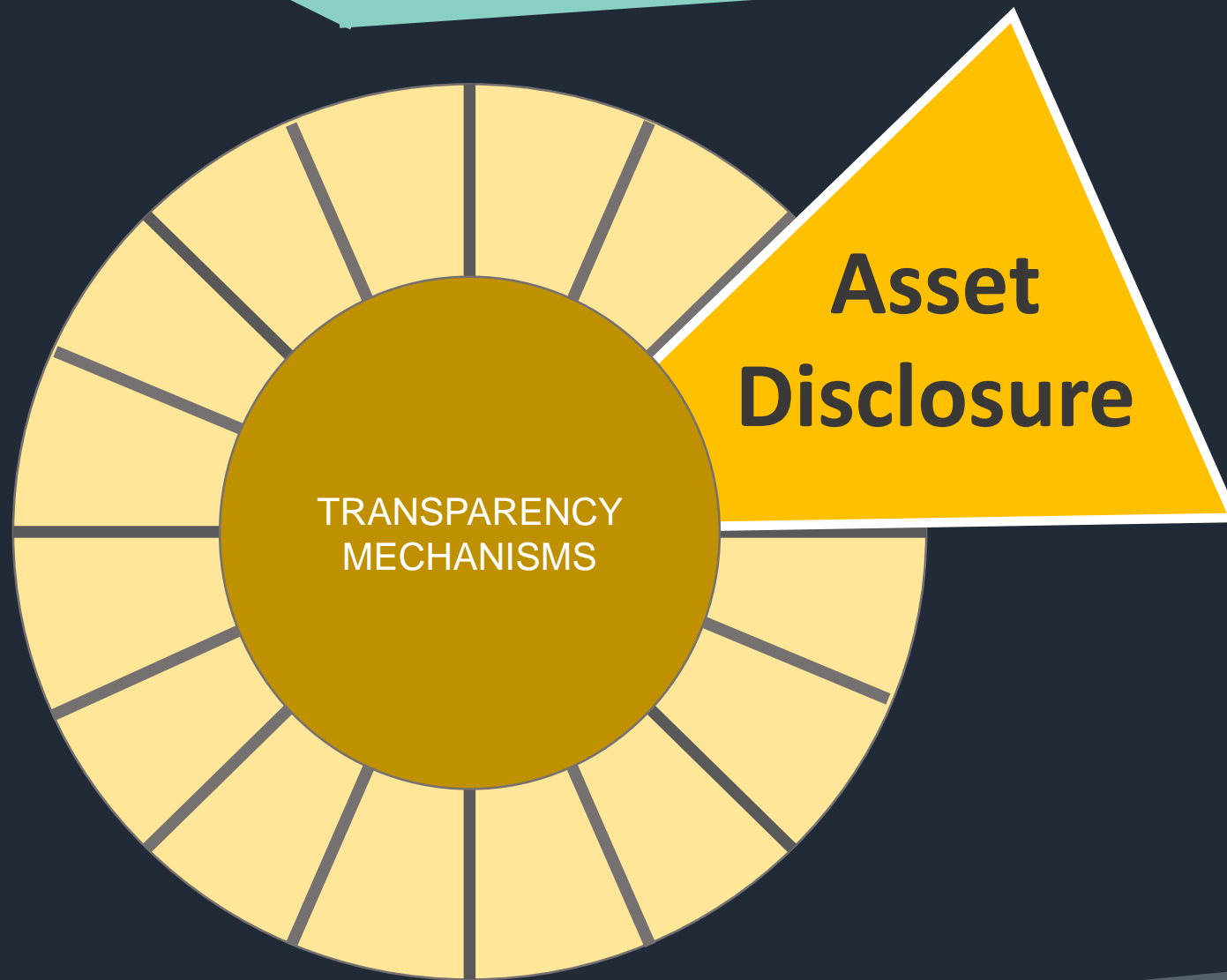
# | UNCAC Implementation Review



## Update on Specific Steps for the Review

- The Office submitted updates of its ongoing legislative measures to strengthen it as an anti-corruption body.
- In June 2017, the Philippines has been selected as one of the State Parties which will review the State of Mauritania and the governmental experts which were selected by the Presidential UNCAC Inter-Agency Committee (PUICOM).
- In September 2017, an orientation and training on UNCAC particularly on the proper protocol and procedures as State Party 2nd Cycle Reviewer was held for the benefit of these governmental experts.

# | Asset Declaration in the Philippines



effective tool in  
identifying corruption in  
the public sector

vital investigative tool to zero  
in on government officials  
and employees who tend to  
exploit and profit from public  
service by acquiring illicit  
wealth



# Asset Declaration in the Philippines

## KEY CHALLENGES

current fragmented  
institutional arrangement



fragmentation of submission  
and compliance procedures

lack of a central body  
operationally administering  
the entire gamut of the  
declaration process



divests the system of the  
inherent opportunity for  
uniformity and streamlining

implementing rules and  
regulations provided only  
limited operational  
guidelines



spawning different practices  
among stakeholder agencies

# | Asset Declaration in the Philippines

31 May 2013

## Enhancing the Asset Declaration System (EADS) Project

Support the Office of the Ombudsman in **improving the efficiency**, effectiveness, and credibility of the asset declaration system through a transition of the **manual based SALN to an electronic platform**.



# Asset Declaration in the Philippines

## REQUIREMENT



1

Internet connectivity



2

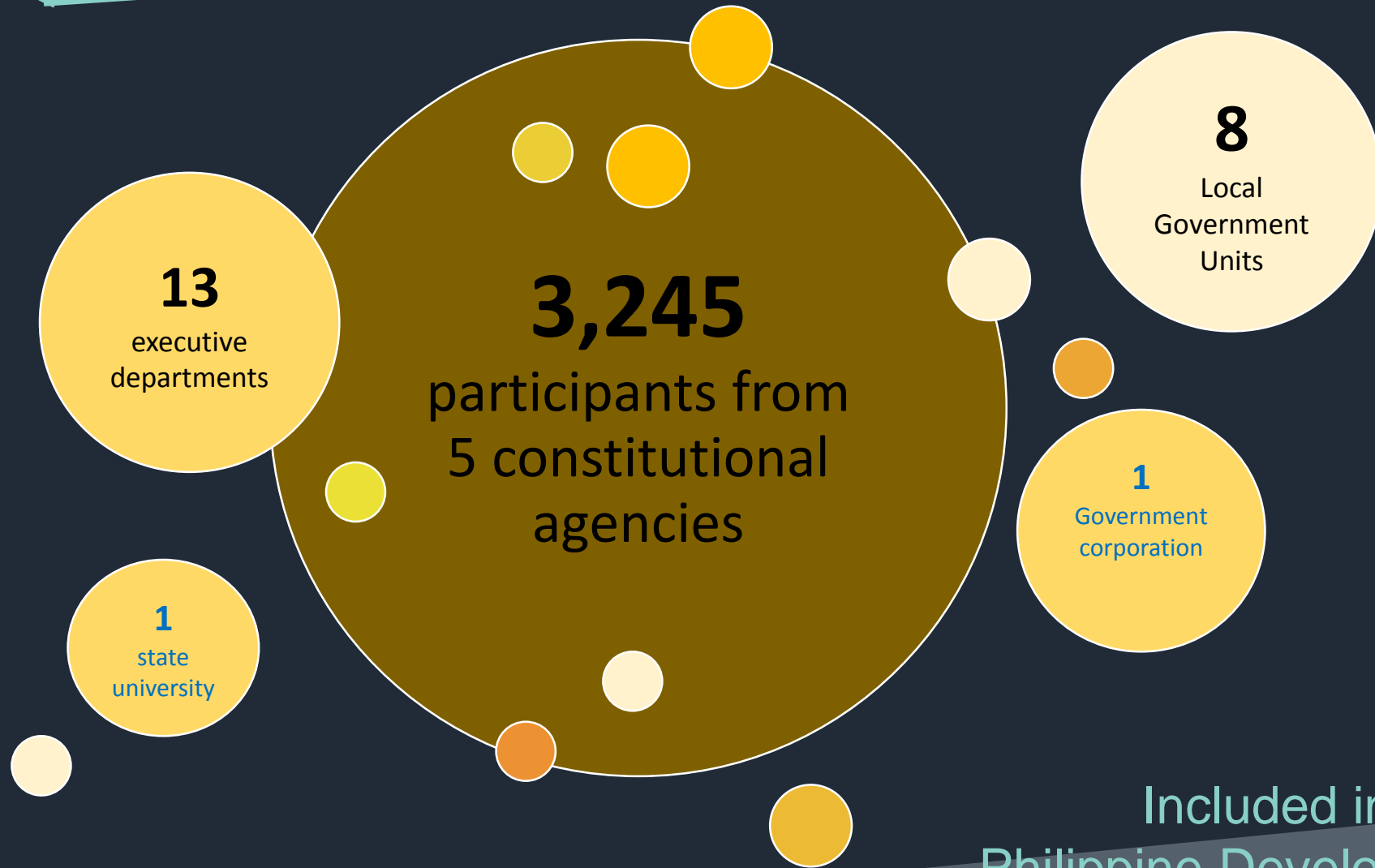
desktop or laptop  
computer, tablet, or  
mobile with a web  
browser

## ADVANTAGES

- paperless transaction as a response to greening the bureaucracy;
- server-based physical storage as an answer to space requirements for voluminous records;
- virtual file storage;

- quicker file retrieval as a record management approach;
- system-generated reminder to filers for a more efficient and documented compliance monitoring;
- reduced preparation time as cloning of previous year's entry is permitted;

# Asset Declaration in the Philippines



Included in the  
Philippine Development Plan

# Asset Declaration in the Philippines

e-SALN is not a panacea to all issues identified under the asset disclosure system.

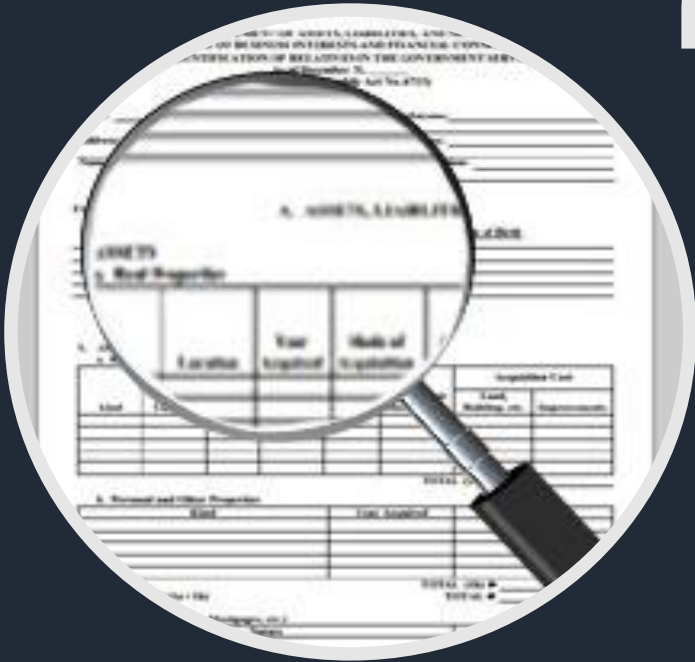
While e-SALN cannot directly answer for all these gaps, it can definitely inform reforms and innovation as it complements the limitation of the disclosure system.

Because it is a strategic intervention, it may incrementally offer solutions to different issue points.

Further, the system may also consider a mutual existence alongside transparency instrument such Freedom of Information (FOI) bill and regulatory mechanism such Data Privacy Act.



# Asset Declaration in the Philippines



“ While in its nascent stage and gains cannot be accounted in full at the moment, it is a particularly important intervention which can be enrolled under SEA-PAC action plan as entry point for capacity building programs, including an exchange of experts, technical assistance and information.

This, after all is a recommended area of concern which may be addressed by an ASEAN Integrity Community which Transparency International (TI) proposed to be set up to define a regional anti-corruption framework that would serve as a strong foundation for economic integration.”

# Asset Declaration in the Philippines

“

Overall, an efficient and functioning asset declaration system promotes accountability.”

”

“

Ultimately, the SALN instills ethics in public service and reinforces a culture of integrity which is quite crucial in a credible and untainted discharge of duty.

”



TRANSPARENCY  
&  
ACCOUNTABILITY



# Strengthening Public Service Integrity:

## Multi-sectoral Anti-Corruption Programs and Enhanced Disclosure Mechanism



### PHILIPPINE PAPER PRESENTATION

13th SEA-PAC Principals Meeting  
EDSA Shangri-La Manila, Philippines  
27 November 2017 | 4:20 – 4:45 p.m.

**MELCHOR ARTHUR H. CARANDANG**

Overall Deputy Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman, Republic of the Philippines