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Poverty Reduction for the Disabled in the Philippines

- Livelihood Analysis from the Data of PWDs in Metro Manila -

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Preface

This report is the outcome of the second year of a two-year research project (FY 2007-2008) “Poverty Reduction for the Disabled- Livelihood of the Disabled in Developing countries”. In the first year of the project, the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE), JETRO conducted the Joint Research Project with the Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), which is the professional social science research organization mainly government planners and policy-makers in the executive and legislative branches of government in the Philippines.

Among world-wide efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially for Poverty Reduction in developing countries, how to address the disability issues has become more highlighted. To do so, collecting accurate disability-related data in these countries is crucial. So far the UN-ESCAP, the World Bank and other international cooperation agencies have attempted to find effective ways to collect and to streamline the Disability Statistics collected in developing countries. However, currently available data of disability are too general to be the basis of socio-economic policy-making. Most data are about Disability Prevalence (Incidence) rate in each country.

Therefore, we drew focus to the study on the livelihood of persons with disabilities (PWDs), which is missing in the currently available data sets. In particular, we will look into the situation of the PWDs in the Philippines because the country is

one of the developing countries having well-organized institutional framework for PWDs symbolized by the “Magna Carta for Disabled Persons” while the poverty reduction remains critical in the country.

This is the first survey of featuring socio-economic life of PWDs with taking the relation between disability and poverty into consideration in any developing countries to our knowledge. After carefully networking with Disabled People Organizations(DPOs) in Metro Manila, the survey is conducted in August 2008 with PIDS researchers and staffs. Among the team members, Dr. Celia M. Reyes made a leading role to organize the PIDS research team and compile the collected data effectively as shown in this report. Dr. Jose R. Albert prepare the sampled data list for the survey as a specialist of statistics. All staffs at PIDS and PWD enumerators from DPOs cooperate very effectively and they could contribute to this historic event in the Philippine history.

For the preliminary analysis in this report, the international workshop was held on November 29, 2008 at IDE with the project members as well as the outstanding discussants from Japanese DPO, UN and other our IDE research team. Through the discussions we renew our awareness of the importance this kind of Disability data collection and its analysis with development professionals to manage poverty-reduction strategy adequately.

The analyzing process just begins with the collected data and with our time

constraints, here all we can show would be very preliminary. We need further discussion for the development implications from the data and more analysis about disability effects on PWDs livelihoods. However, we hope this report would contribute to improve the situations of PWDs in the Philippines and their further communication with Development professionals in the Philippines and all over the world.

Editors

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