



SERVE CONFERENCE DECLARATION

We are delegates to the Social Enterprise Rehabilitation Visioning and Engagement (SERVE) Conference in Cebu City on March 13-14, 2014.

We have come together to craft an agenda and platform to make social enterprise development an important strategy to enhance the government's strategic plan on the Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda (RAY).

Amidst poverty and inequality, social enterprises can play an important role as vehicles for creating and distributing wealth among the poor and the marginalized; and for building the poor's assets, capability and self reliance as stakeholders in sustainable, inclusive, and gender-responsive economic development.

Yolanda's impact on the lives and livelihoods of farmers, laborers, fishers, indigenous peoples, the enterprising poor, persons with disabilities, and the women and children of these marginalized groups have been grave and massive.

We see the urgent need to have a comprehensive and inclusive economic and ecological program for livelihood recovery and rehabilitation towards building back better.

If we are to build back better:

- Recovery efforts need to be urgently implemented and reach a significant scale to impact on the poor.
- Recovery efforts need to be sustainable. They need to be linked to more long term processes of building sustainable livelihoods; improving the position and assets of the marginalized in economic subsectors where they are situated; and improving their capability to be partners and decision makers in viable social enterprises.
- Recovery efforts to restore habitats in a resilient manner as well as to provide appropriate basic needs and assets to the poor should become opportunities for social innovation or transformed into social enterprise ventures. In the process, they would provide livelihoods, ensure food security, restore ecosystems, and build the infrastructure for viable community-based systems for the delivery of basic services.

We launch the **Reconstruction Initiative through Social Enterprise (RISE)** as a multisectoral platform to support the development of a vibrant social enterprise sector to work on recovery, restoration, and rehabilitation focused on farmers, laborers, fishers, indigenous peoples, enterprising poor, persons with disabilities, and the women and children of these marginalized groups.

- Through RISE, we shall promote innovative and gender-responsive program and project development efforts, resource matching, learning exchange and advocacy to make social enterprise development an important strategy to enhance Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda.
- Through RISE, we shall engage government to provide an enabling policy environment and mechanisms for the growth of social enterprises.
- Through RISE, we shall draw the support of civil society, government and the business sector to make the poor and the marginalized major stakeholders in recovery and rehabilitation.
- Through RISE, we shall build back better with social enterprises as transformational partners of the poor, civil society, government, and business in sustainable, inclusive, and gender-responsive economic development.