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THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND THE AGENDA FOR EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONS: THE PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT:

A developing economy such as the Philippines faces the challenge of how to create an enabling environment for economic growth and development. The policy development process leads to the creation of that environment but how does one nudge forward the policy development process? Why are some reforms adopted while others face stiff resistance? The policy development process is not a disembodied phenomenon but is nested in an effectively functional institutional setting. There can be no effective policy development process if institutions supporting and implementing it are ineffective or dysfunctional. Several factors may explain the acceptance of or resistance to reforms, such as the message content of the proposed reform or package of reforms, the relative impacts on various sectors of the economy, the identity of gainers and losers, the presence of a broad coalition of support or lack of it and many others. This paper maintains that acceptance of or resistance to reforms or even of the whole policy development process may be influenced by the presence and active participation of institutions supporting the process. Both the content (message) of the reform and the medium used for acceptance of the reform are equally important. In this paper the “medium” referred to is the set of institutions that help or motivate the policy development process.