

## CHAPTER VIII FACILITATING AND PARTICIPATION

### 8.1 FACILITATION

The roles of the team in facilitating are to motivate them to be the main players in decision making, to support their own ways of decision-making and to help explain the need to develop participation in implementing their community projects. Community dynamics that arises during the implementation such as level of participation, domination of particular individuals, conflicts between members, active dialogue in order to reach the targets are not intervened by the team. The team follows the process and taking a distance standpoint in order to continue passively involved in the participation process.

For the team, facilitating means that the team can only help with a preference toward creating a democratic, just condition in decision making in the community. Being a facilitator is not the same as being an actor, a teacher, a couch, or a researcher. Facilitators are also distanced themselves from researching while facilitating. Process of researching is done in a passive mode, in which researchers are not asking questions about the research but observing only what happens. As a result, facilitators are willing to be low profile, to learn from the communities, and put the community members as resource persons as they are the ones who know better about their own communities and their environment.

The functions of facilitating that have been done in both RWs are:

- communication:

The team as a facilitator has been engaged in many dialogues especially with those who are actively involved in planning and implementation of community projects. This is done so that the communities understand and recognize the need to do mitigation in a comprehensive way. At a personal level, the facilitator feels the need to build trust with them by becoming friendly and feeling close with them. In return, the facilitator expects the community members to be open, trustworthy and straightforward without psychological distance.

- conducting group meetings

After the facilitator find community members who have expertise in the community projects, and experts from local agencies and government agencies, the facilitator conducted group meetings in order to get factual description about how to implement community projects.

- awareness and community education

Both communities have used to get help, especially dependency from the government for helps. Mental attitudes like asking others to help them have to be changed into developing their capacity to help themselves. The communities themselves have the strength and capacity to create a helping mechanism. Meeting with the communities

increased their motivations to initiate and to take action in order to help solve their own problems.

- looking for resource from outside

Although the communities own some strength and resources, theirs are limited. Thus some help from outside especially in terms of technical expertise and financial capacity. The communities are introduced to these agencies and urged to develop networks with them.

- data gathering

These times, the communities often forget to take notes for floods that takes place in their areas. In other words, they are urged to develop data gathering for their own benefits. Data includes casualty and health problems that arise from floods. A clear and complete data gathering including archiving is important for them to monitor improvement in their capacity to mitigate flood. This data is also used as a reference for making any programs in the future.

- motivation, awareness and activation

The ability of the communities to pinpoint their problems that lead to solutions, are still limited. They are capable to show many problems, however to develop understanding that some problems are too big to be tackled in a short term, or required other problems to be tackled first, is one of the task in facilitation. The facilitator gives specific attention toward their ability to sort out their problems, to view the problems and to choose actions that are appropriate. The facilitator's standpoint is to make the communities understand that they have a capacity to develop community organizing that some problems may be possible to be tackled.

- representation and advocate

During the facilitating process, the facilitator found that some groups within the community disagree with how to implement and how to use the resources in the community projects. The facilitator offers the community to solve their disagreement and only offer mediating and advice.

- Presentation to the Public

The facilitator and the communities also decided to inform the larger public about this project. One form is to give a talk show in a local radio, KLCBS, on July 2001 about these activities. Others is to allow a local newspaper to cover the ongoing community projects.

- Management and organization

Implementation of the projects needs an organisation and good management in order to go as planned. The facilitator ensures the community members to activate current community organizations and to empower them with some ability to participate together in order to implement the projects.

#### - Research

The team also acts as researchers who monitor the project. In terms of implementing community projects, the team becomes examples for the community to develop the curiosity that later becomes the ability to research. This is particularly to help the communities to be able to research with confidence, and with some reliability.

To facilitate the implementation of the community projects, the facilitator has to understand that each community has different background and different missions. The facilitator tried not to judge which communities have a better participation level, particularly because the starting phase in which they are involved is different. Thus, results from one community cannot be compared with those of others, although both uses the same methods of community participation.

## 8.2 PARTICIPATION

Participation means involvement of the community members to initiating, planning, managing, implementing, evaluating and monitoring the projects that they agree together. Participation that develop in community members as well as those from local agencies, help in succeeding with the project implementation.

Participation among community members creates:

- creation of collective awareness to help themselves with flood mitigation
- building of community organization that can be sustainable in helping themselves with flood mitigation
- creation of principles in participatory development
- expansion of capacity building

### 8.2.1 RW 09

The first step of developing participation is to get to know the areas and the community members. In the beginning, community response is not positive particularly as they have accepted many visits from various agencies and non-governmental agencies, but there is no further action taken.

The facilitator especially approaches some members who are vocal, articulate and oppose the project mission, as well as the formal and informal community leaders. The facilitators introduces the mission and the purposes and ask them to participate. There is a need to be patience and eagerness to know who they are, help facilitator stood the withdrawing behaviours shown by the community members. It did not take long before the community become open and willing to cooperate and participate. RW 09 shows high participation and response to this project. Their willingness to provide time and volunteer for this project is shown by their willingness to finish up their community project on time. Their community projects are five water closets, two small concrete bridges and one water supply centre. The involvement of the community members especially is shown by their willingness to work late at night after they finish with their daytime jobs.

### 8.2.2 RW 14

The first introduction in RW shows that the members are more educated and more knowledgeable about their problem on floods. Their housing are more orderly, and cleaner. In the beginning, the facilitator thinks that they will implement the program better because of their fast understanding about the mission of the project. They are expected to contribute to the project activities. Other fact, from the beginning they have asked what will they get out of this project. They also doubt that the facilitator can help them. They even though that the facilitator will make use of them. In later stage, their level of participation is not as high as in RW 09. Their willingness to come to the meetings are limited to those who are in charge with community organizations and some organizationally active members.