The Philippines has been experiencing remarkable economic growth. However, environmental challenges negatively impact the competitiveness of micro, small or medium enterprises (MSMEs) since they threaten the resources that MSMEs have access to, which include: electricity, fuel, water and materials.

Starting in the Provinces of Cebu and Bohol, partners worked all over the country with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the diaspora to implement environmentally friendly, climate-sensitive and inclusive strategies and measures that would support longer-term private sector development.

**Project Details**

**Title:** Promotion of Green Economic Development (Pro GED)

**Countries:** Philippines

**Donors:** German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

**Implementer:** Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), with support of GIZ

**Period:** 2013-2016

**Budget:** EUR 4 mil (German

**Key Words**

Environment and Climate Change; Diaspora engagement
HOW WAS MIGRATION INTEGRATED?

The Pro GED project aimed to increase awareness within MSMEs about how to adopt green strategies in order to reduce the risk of climate change on their operations. To support this transition, the development potential of overseas Filipinos (diaspora) was harnessed, given that:

• Some diaspora had acquired ‘green’ skills that could be transferred to their communities of origin;
• Some diaspora were ‘green’ investors and entrepreneurs that could provide economic capital to support private sector development that is more environmentally friendly.

Beyond direct transfers of skills and economic capital, “Green Business Literacy” trainings were organized to help sensitize families left behind on how they can also invest a portion of remittances received into emerging business models that wish to adopt green practices. ‘Green’ business models touched upon energy efficiency, solid waste management and locally sourced, environmentally friendly supplies.

WHAT WERE LESSONS LEARNED?

Greening initiatives should be scaled up to include entire industries: A team of management staff from DTI created a Green Growth Core Group to promote green economic development initiatives at policy level. Their advocacy encouraged the Ministry, the Board of Investment and the respective industry associations to include greening measures into selected industry roadmaps such as copper, paper, plastics. Involving industries across sectors in a strategic manner to promote environmentally friendly and climate smart business practices will improve sustainability in the years to come (GIZ).

References:
GIZ. Project description: Green economic development.

Further References:
GIZ and CIM. Migration as a Driver for Private Sector Development.