

## ***Comments on Lake Laguna de Bay Brief***

Lake Laguna de Bay suffers from the usual range of issues common to heavily settled areas – pollution from runoff and sewage, nutrient enrichment from fish ponds, agricultural runoff and pollution, declining fish catches. The lake is also tidal and in periods of high tides can turn very salty. These issues and the history of establishment of the Laguna de Bay Development Authority are covered in considerable detail in the brief. There are areas of repetition and excessive detail that can be reduced to tighten up this part of the document.

The most interesting part of the document is the description of the formation and operation of the LLDA. This authority was established about 40 years ago and, in spite of its title, has concentrated more on protection than development. The brief provides a very good description of the reasons for its establishment, its mandate and structure, its successes and failures, and recent changes as a result of a re-engineering study. Many important points are made in this part of the brief that are very helpful to the overall GEF funded project – the need for institutional flexibility and change, the critical importance of developing independent funding sources (LLDA has developed more than one such source), the need to balance cooperation with local government with occasional obstinacy over critical issues, the dual need for both environmental controls and engineered infrastructure, etc. The LLDA is old enough to have gone through a mid-life crisis when its relevance was being seriously questioned. All this is well presented and easily useable.

The LLDA's enabling legislation and other relevant acts are described, as is its relationship with other authorities (particularly municipalities) and interest groups.

The brief could be reduced in length by removing some points of detail and some repetition but this must be done thoughtfully so that none of the excellent information is lost. This is one of the most informative briefs and will greatly enhance the final report.