

## ADFIAP participates in SME corporate governance conference

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On invitation by the Asian Institute of Management, Hills Governance Center of the Philippines (AIM-Hills), ADFIAP participated in the conference on “SMEs as a Major Force in Promoting Integrity and Accountability in Business” held on July 26, 2012 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Manila.

The event served as venue for exchange of ideas among owners and managers of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), government officials, civil society, academe and other institutions, with the objective of developing an enabling environment for SMEs to operate their businesses with integrity and accountability.

Among the topics discussed were corruption as an impediment to development, challenges of operating a business without corruption, addressing corruption vulnerabilities in procurement, finding common ground with the tax authorities, streamlining processes for business permits and licenses, and doing business with integrity.

Speakers and panelists included AIM Chairman Emeritus Washington SyCip, National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo, Mayor Reynaldo Navarro, President of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting of Planters Development Bank, an ADFIAP member.

The AIM-Hills Program on Governance [www.aim-hills.ph](http://www.aim-hills.ph) focuses on identifying serious governance problems, developing a better understanding of the corrupting influences that create problems, and organizing efforts to reduce these influences. The Center conducts workshops and research to compare governance problems in various countries and identify and share the best governance practices of business and government.

The conference was sponsored by the Washington, D.C.-based Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), one of ADFIAP’s program funders, and co-sponsored by Plantersbank, the

largest privately-owned and managed development bank in the Philippines. ADFIAP was represented in the forum by Ms. Cora D. Conde, Head of ADFIAP Consulting (AC)  
<http://www.adfiap.org/consulting/>

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