Panel 3.2: Democratic Governance Challenges in Asia-Pacific

Participatory Planning and Budgeting in the Philippines

Governance reforms in the Philippines since 2010 created more avenues for public participation in budgetary policy. Civil society organizations (CSOs) are given greater roles in representing citizens in new participatory budgeting mechanisms. Capacity building programs are needed to equip CSOs in engaging in the planning and budget processes both at the national and subnational level. Good governance on the demand-side would be advanced if open budget data can be fully utilized by CSOs in voicing citizen concerns in budget deliberations. The quality of public participation in budgetary policy would also be enhanced by strengthening voice mechanisms in the other phases of the budget cycle, especially in budget legislation, execution, and oversight.