

Camolinas Project

Basis of the following estimation is our first impression and experience with the community and a Baseline Survey, conducted by JPIC-IDC in September and October 2008.

The community seems to be less developed than expected. The educational level seems to be very low, as over one third of them didn't even graduate from Elementary school. Also their health status is not disastrous but under-developed. But few of them are young and ambitious and, according to their organisational willing, a basis for structured work and organisation is existent. This is shown by their political engagement. All participants of the survey were involved in community organisations.

The area distinguishes itself from the surroundings only by its look. The houses are similar and the set up is very accurate unlike the flawed huts outside the community. It is divided through a fence. All people living in the housing area need to make payments of both, the Land and the houses.

Business activities

The business activities of the Camolinas - Community are organized in chapters. Every chapter is running a different business. However, the main activity of the community is vending and fishing.

The main goods being dealt with are charcoal, coming from near Bohol via boat, rugs, gasoline and groceries. The vendors only buy the products and resell them to the grocery shops and the market. The question, where they obtained the assets for these activities, still remains unanswered.

With about 17.5 % of the community working as fishermen, fish plays another important role in the income of the community. The fishermen sell their fish on the local market and use it for their own needs. Some of the products seem to get dried, but this processing can neither be seen as organized nor properly planned. It is more for their own needs than for the market.

Other chapters run little groceries, called "Sari-Sari-Stores", and do house-keeping.

Market

The main market of Cordova where the majority of the products are sold is just about 500 meters away from the community. Additionally to this market, there might be others with the same demand on fish or even the dried fish. Dried fish is not hard to produce and according to Father Tony, the JPIC-IDS director, there is a demand existing. Unfortunately, the community hasn't got any facilities to dry fish in a big amount. The uncompleted community centre could be a place for a sheltered drying place. It has not been finished as of a lack of money.

Another market for the community might be the tourism industry, which is just located beside the community's area.

In a small extend, the community and JPIC have ideas of involving the community into the tourism industry in order to practice community-based tourism.

Part one - The Camolinas fishermen community in Cordova

Considerations are a marketing of dried fish and other products to hotels and tourists, to conduct dive tours and island hopping tours in the Mactan/Cordovan area and to run a floating restaurant.

There hasn't been any research or planning regarding these considerations yet and the community and JPIC don't know what demands and supplies are to be found in the surroundings of Camolinas.

Planned extension projects

According to Father Manuel and Mir. Victor /JPIC-IDC, it is planned to extend the housing project for another 26 houses and to build a training centre for the community. The planning is finished and this housing project will start soon.

There are considerations, finalizing the construction works of the unfinished community centre, making it a drying place for fish. But there are no planning and calculations, nor funds yet.

As of the advantageous condition for landing boats, the area is also used as the connecting street between the market and the port. Building a pier to facilitate the landing and packing process could enable the community to charge the ships for this service.