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## **Eco-Industrial Development as a Framework in Managing Philippine Economic Zones**

The emergence of clusters of industrial estates or economic zones in developing countries has brought about a surge in employment and other economic opportunities. Recognizing the importance of addressing the economic, environmental and social effects of industrialization, a framework for managing economic zones became essential in achieving the goals of sustainable development. Eco-industrial development is currently the most sophisticated form of management strategy for industrial estates or parks, which is characterized by the following principles: resource efficiency and cleaner production, renewable energy and materials, green buildings and infrastructure, community enhancement, ecological site planning, EMS: ISO 14000 and beyond. This study aims to explore and describe the transformation of operating economic zones in the Philippines into eco-industrial parks, using criteria and characteristics of EIPs cited in various literature and case studies in the local and international setting. Particularly, this study aims to answer the following questions:

1. Which organizations play essential roles in steering or facilitating transformation of existing industrial parks into eco-industrial parks? Who are the stakeholders and what roles do they play?
2. What are the enabling mechanisms in terms of policies, economic incentives, tools and resources, needed to transform existing IPs into EIPs?
3. What is the current situation of Philippine economic zones and what strategies can be employed in transforming an economic zone into an eco-industrial park? (Case Study: Mactan Economic Zone in Lapu-lapu City, Cebu)

The methods of research to be used include survey or data gathering, literature reviews and comparative studies of local and international projects towards eco-industrial development. The timeframe for the research is approximately two months and will be available in November. The author is a Chemist and is a candidate for the Master in Environmental Management Degree at the Ateneo De Manila University, a joint program with the University of San Francisco, USA. She is the Officer In-charge of the Environmental Management Unit of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Roxas Blvd. cor. San Luis St., Pasay City, Philippines), the prime agency tasked to develop, operate and supervise economic zones or industrial estates in the country.