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**A CORPORATE PLANNING STRATEGY FOR A BETTER IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(EIS) SYSTEM**

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Abstract:

The use of environmental impact assessment (EIA) in the Philippines was embraced by the national leadership as the cornerstone of its Philippine Environmental Policy. Adapted from the United States EIA model, the Philippine EIS System has labored to integrate itself into the local planning and decision-making processes. Its implementation has had limited success since a set of institutional, legal, and administrative problems continues to plague it. These problems are compounded and reinforced by the lack of a management framework to address these concerns realistically. Undoubtedly, the EIS System has its inherent flaws, but the lack of a decisive and creative management of the System accounts for its low level of performance. The government's predilection towards emphasizing economic growth over environmental protection is ultimately responsible for this limited success.

This study is basically a policy study on the EIA experience in the Philippines. Utilizing the corporate planning strategy approach, it reviewed the implementation of the EIS System and that of environmental management in the country. In so doing, it now provides policy makers with a fuller consideration of alternatives, based on a wider context, so that this government policy may raise its level of performance to creditable and effective levels.

As a corporate planning strategy, the study recommended that in the short term, National Environmental Protection Council (NEPC) should selectively implement the EIS System and advance its 'art' or 'science' to provide some technical bases for EIA preparation and evaluation. In the future, NEPC must strengthen its institutional personality, rationalize the scope of the EIS System, and continue to advance technical know-how of EIA.