

# Philippines Outsourcing: Tipping Point Reached

Presented by: Richard Mills CFA Chairman, Chalré Associates

For:



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Executive Search & Management Consulting in the Developing Countries of Asia.



# **Offshore Outsourcing Stages**

# First, there was Manufacturing. Now there is Services.

Everyone in this room knows the tremendously positive impact of the semiconductor manufacturing industry on the economy of Philippines.

Today, we need to get ready for a new stage in Offshoring. Services Outsourcing will have as great an impact as the semiconductor industry but over a shorter period of time.







# **Some Examples**

Here is some data on what real decision makers are doing and experiencing in Philippines.









### **Top Performing Delivery Unit in the World**

#### Comments:

Less than 2 years ago, HSBC's BPO delivery center in Philippines employed one 50-year old white man. Today it employs 2500 people and is ranked #1 in the world for quality among 8 Global Delivery Centers operated by the company.

This achievement in such a short time is remarkable because big old banks usually don't do anything very quickly (or very efficiently). They were able to grow their center to such a size despite being located next door to Convergys, considered by many as the world's most ruthless recruiting organization. Apparently, successful BPO managers don't need to be 35-year old workaholics in Philippines.









### **Doubling This Year to 6000 people**

#### **Comments:**

People in the industry know that IBM is growing much faster in Philippines than in India. Last year, they had a large site in Bangalore that was shut down due to bad quality performance. The majority of these jobs were moved to Philippines. Industry sources say they are targeting to employ 10,000 people in Philippine over the next couple of years.









### Starting at the Top of the Value-Chain

#### **Comments:**

This company's situation is interesting for 2 reasons. First of all, most companies when they enter Philippines start by doing low-skilled functions and later move up the value chain. Deutsche Bank isn't doing this. They are hiring high-end financial people to support the company's CFO's throughout the world.

Secondly, big German companies (and especially banks) are usually slow to move because they spend a lot of time in the planning stage. Deutsche Bank started their operation only a short time ago and already employ 300 people. Industry sources say they will reach 500 by the end of the year. Apparently, they are pleased with progress and are moving ahead quickly as a result.









### **Growing in Philippines, Slowing in India**

#### **Comments:**

Many people in the IT sector will remember Dell's announcements of 2 years ago that it was pulling 1000 jobs back to the US from India due to substandard quality. Less well known is that during that same period, Dell added more than 1000 jobs in Philippines through third party providers.

More recently, the company announced that it would set up captive facilities in Philippines (in addition to keeping its 3<sup>rd</sup> party relationships). The company is now proceeding with an aggressive hiring campaign that will add up to 5000 positions in Manila alone. It seems clear that Philippines is their priority to the exclusion of India.









### **Performance in Philippines Exceeds Australia**

#### Comments:

The company started a BPO in Philippines a year-and-a-half ago out of necessity – some say because Citigroup was receiving resistance to the Indian accent in Australia. Today, the company is already receiving better quality performance ratings in Philippines than at its much more experienced Australia Delivery Center based in Brisbane. Industry sources close to the action now say that the Brisbane-based delivery center is being closed and all the jobs are being moved to Philippines.









### **Pulled Jobs Out of India**

#### Comments:

Sykes spent millions to setup capacity in India, only to shut it all down because performance was lacking. All 1500 jobs were transferred to Philippines.









Global eXchange Services (formerly GE Information Systems)

# Centralized Worldwide Application Maintenance & Support in Philippines

#### **Comments:**

GXS has operated in both Philippines and India for some time doing a range of IT functions. It is expanding quickly in Philippines after making the decision to centralize all functions with a customer interfacing component to Philippines because of "better results and economics." GXS reported an increase in roughly all of its quality metrics within just a few months of moving the work to Philippines from its various world-wide locations.

Most people with experience say that jobs with a customer interaction component are better done in Philippines. India is said to be more experienced with application development but Filipinos are better at maintaining and supporting the software once its created.









### **Growing Faster in Philippines**

#### **Comments:**

ClientLogic is among the top 5 call center/BPO's in the world. Industry sources say that the company has experienced much faster growth and quality performance in Philippines. The company recently moved its head of India operations to Philippines because it anticipates significantly faster rates of growth.









### **Opportunity is in the Thousands**

#### Comments:

I attended the recent opening of HP's second facility in Philippines. I was told that the company has 10,000 employees in India and it replaces 2500 of these every year. The company has recently has better overall results in Philippines and it is focusing on this country for future growth.

HP is one of many companies that has experienced higher quality ratings in functions with a customer interface component. Some of these include: application maintenance & support, technical support, infrastructure support, database administration.







# What Business Leaders Say: About BPO in Philippines

Let's look at some conclusions and trends.







# What Business Leaders Say: About the Industry

## Early Stage of Development

- 1. Direct Industry Employment is only 160,000
- 2. Most BPO's are small
- 3. Broad range of BPO services but voice dominates







# What Business Leaders Say: About English

## **Better Communications Skills**

- 1. Better English Communication Skills
- 2. Neutral accent
- 3. More Culturally Attuned to the West
- 4. Customer Service Mind-Set







# What Business Leaders Say: About Staff Availability

## Good Supply of Labour (so far)

- 1. Better "take-up" in Philippines over India
- 2. Call centers moving outside Manila
- 3. Back-Office workers in tremendous supply
- 4. Supply of senior management talent is constrained







# What Business Leaders Say: About Salaries

# Rates Are Holding (for Now)

- 1. Industry agreements are in place that no one will compete on price.
- 2. Increasing management salaries
- 3. There is starting to be competition on incentives.
- 4. BPO salaries lower than call center.







# What Business Leaders Say: About Education

# Better Liberal Arts, Not So for Technical Skills

- 1. Better at Liberal Arts
- 2. Not as Technically Skilled
- 3. Less Advanced Degree Holders

#### Conclusion:

Good "soft-skills." Alleged to be less able at hardcore technical professions.







# What Business Leaders Say: About Staff Turn Over

## **Better Retention**

- 1. Less Competition for Employees
- 2. Retention Agreements Deemed Enforceable

Conclusion:

Keep your people longer in Philippines.







# What Business Leaders Say: About Training

# **Unrealized Opportunity**

- 1. Focus on training is just beginning
- 2. Successful BPO's have aligned with universities for training







#### As a result:

# Philippines is growing the fastest of any outsourcing destination in the world.

Business Leaders feel Philippines will be the destination of choice for the next 3 to 4 years.





### Cyberservices Workforce Forecast (Based on Industry Reports for 2004-2005)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Customer Contact  Growth	64,000	112,000 75%	179,200 60%	259,800 45%	337,700 30%	422,100 25%	506,500 20%
Back Office Growth	15,000	22,500 50%	40,500 80%	72,900 80%	123,900 70%	210,600 70%	337,000 60%
Software Development  Growth	10,000	12,000 20%	15,600 30%	20,300 30%	26,400 30%	34,300 30%	44,600 30%
Medical Transcription  Growth	4,000	5,500 38%	13,800 151%	24,800 80%	42,200 70%	71,700 70%	114,700 60%
Animation  Growth	3,000	4,500 50%	6,800 51%	9,900 <i>4</i> 6%	13,900 <i>40%</i>	18,800 35%	24,400 30%
Engineering Design  Growth	2,000	2,800 40%	4,200 50%	6,700 60%	10,700 60%	16,100 50%	22,500 40%
Other Data Transcription  Growth	2,000	3,000	4,200 40%	5,900 <i>40%</i>	8,300 <i>40%</i>	10,800 <i>30</i> %	14,000 <i>30</i> %
Legal Transcription  Growth	300	450	700 50%	1,100 50%	1,700 50%	2,400 <i>40</i> %	3,100 30%
Digital Content  Growth	200	500 150%	1,000 100%	2,000 100%	4,000 100%	8,000 100%	16,000 100%
TOTAL Growth	101,000	163,000 61%	<b>266,000</b> 63%	<b>403,000</b> 52%	569,000 41%	<b>795,000</b> 40%	1,083,000 36%
New Jobs Generated		62,000	103,000	137,000	166,000	226,000	288,000

Source: CICT, BOI, BPAP and its Member Organizations



# This is the Greatest Time to be in Philippines.

**Business Process Outsourcing Sector** 

- Hiring growth rates are 60% per year
- Back-Office Processing (the Mother Lode) just beginning
- Projected to reach 1M employment in next 4 years

#### **Comments:**

The Dot-Com boom times in North America were exciting but employment growth rates never exceeded 20%-25%. Industry growth rates in Philippines are roughly double this and some sectors (notably call centers) are growing at 60%-70%. And, unlike the Dot-Com days, the jobs being created in Philippines are real ones being paid for by real clients.







# Impact on Economic Activity: Semiconductor Vs. BPO

### **Semiconductor**

Larger Investment, Higher Multiplier Effect?

### **Business Process Outsourcing**

Faster Growth, Higher Wages







# Impact on the Semiconductor Industry

- 1. Increased Demand for Managers
- 2. Increased General Development
- 3. Minimal Overall Impact







If improving value to your organization is important:

# Business Process Outsourcing is an opportunity to make Philippines more important.

#### Boom Times like this:

- Typically happen only once per decade
- Usually don't repeat in the same sector







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**Richard Mills CFA** 

Chairman, Chalré Associates Executive Search

Shameless
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of the
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### **Expert Panel Member:**





#### **Featured Columnist & Contributor:**











#### **Quoted as:**

- "the Asia Pacific expert" by CallCenter Magazine.
- "Offshore Outsourcing Expert" ComputerWorld USA
- "the local guru on outsourcing" by Dr. Michael Clancy, President of Philippine Business Leader's Forum, Economist Intelligence Unit.

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