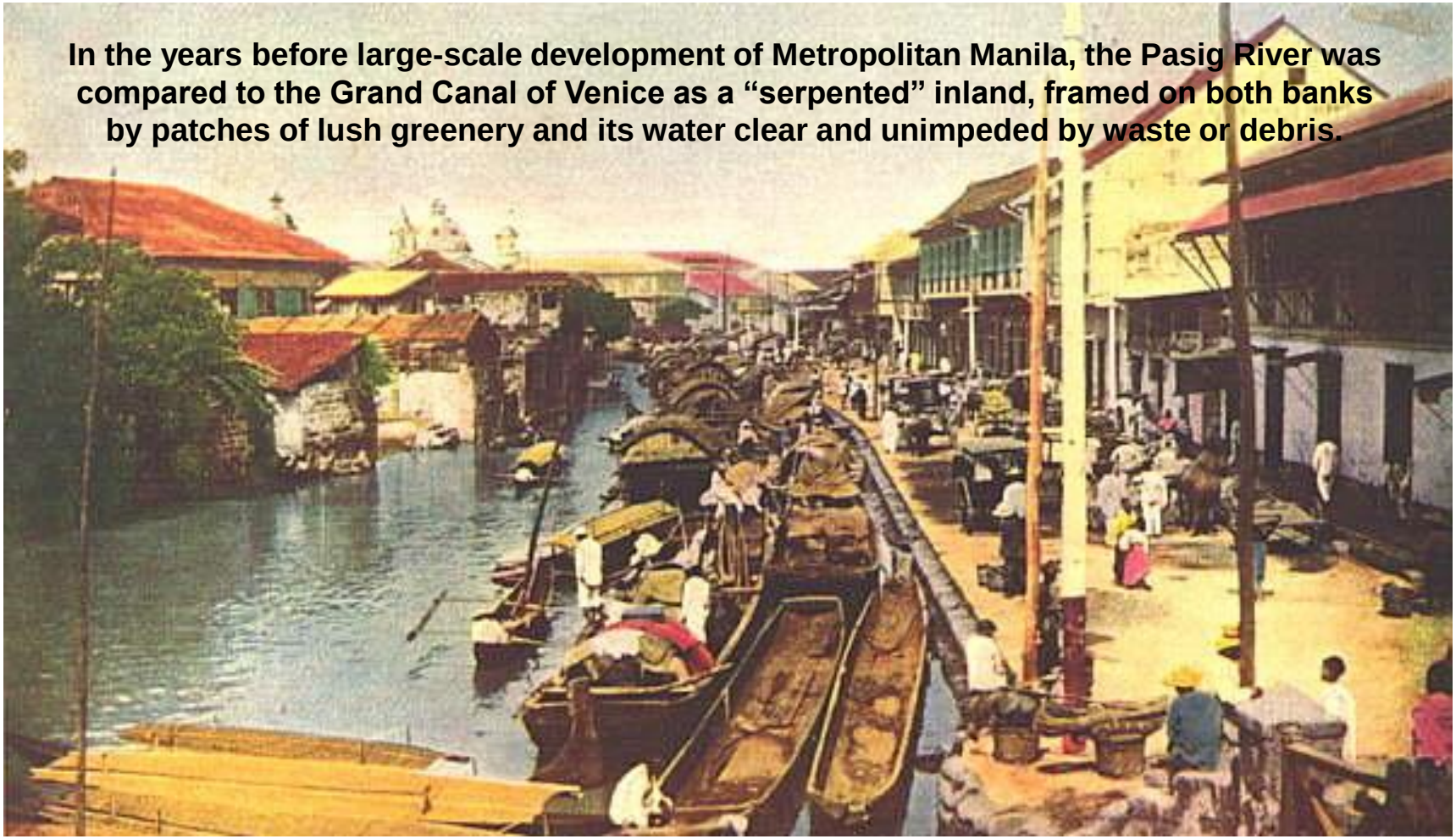
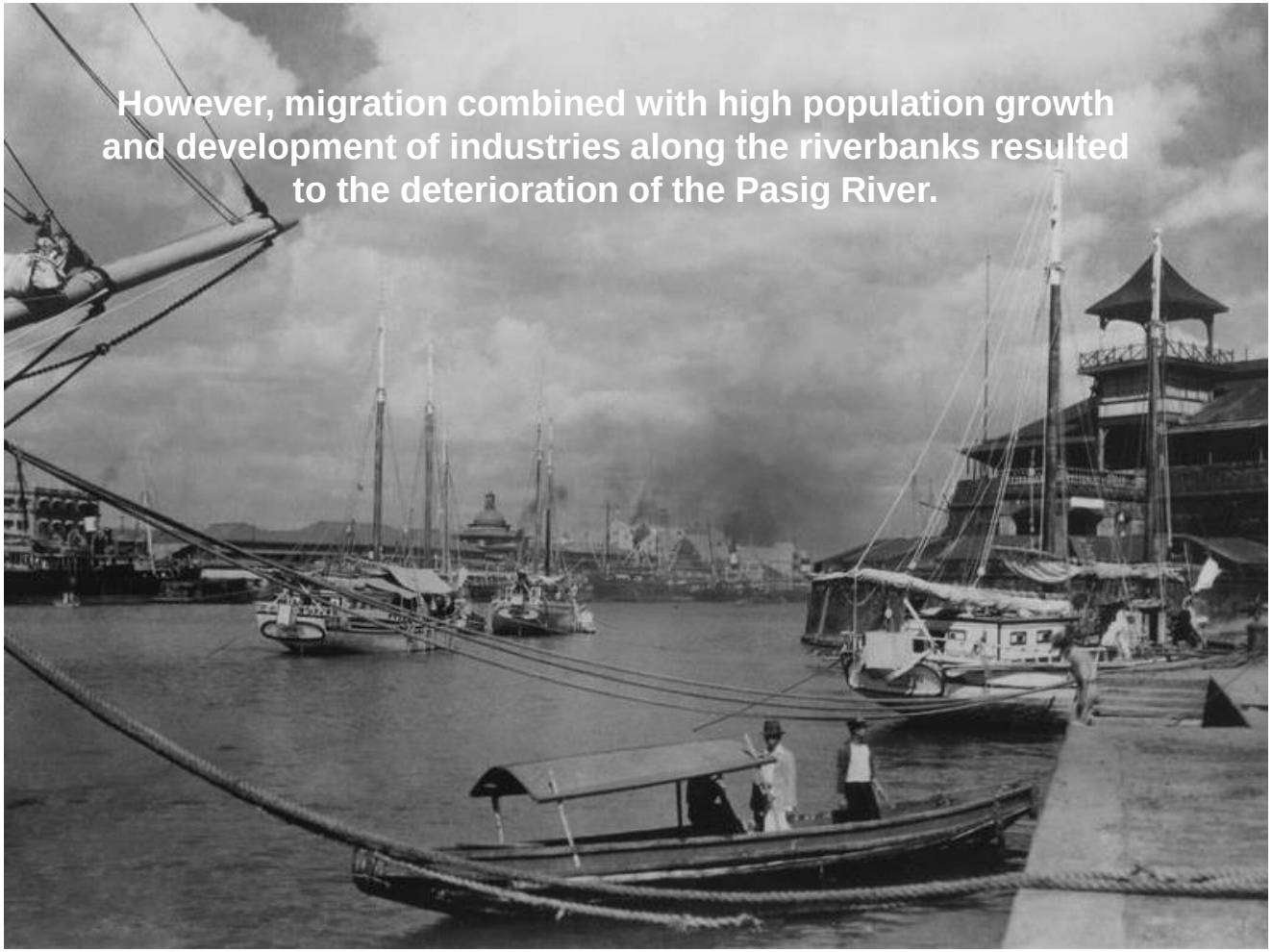
CONVERGENCE

The Key to Successful River Restoration and Management (Case of the Pasig River, Philippines)

The Pasig River is a 27-kilometer river which traverses several cities in Manila. It serves as the only outlet that drains excess water from major bodies of water including a vanishing network of creeks, rivers, and estuaries.



In the years before large-scale development of Metropolitan Manila, the Pasig River was compared to the Grand Canal of Venice as a "serpented" inland, framed on both banks by patches of lush greenery and its water clear and unimpeded by waste or debris.


However, migration combined with high population growth and development of industries along the riverbanks resulted to the deterioration of the Pasig River.

In the 1990s, the Pasig River was declared biologically-dead due to the unabated dumping of garbage, sewage, and industrial waste. It lead to the death of aquatic life and ultimately, the river itself.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) was created by virtue of Executive Order No. 54, as amended by Executive Order No. 65, to ensure that the Pasig River System is rehabilitated to its historically pristine condition that is able to support and sustain aquatic life and resources and is conducive for transport, recreation, and tourism.

OUR VISION
A new Pasig River - clean and alive - reflecting the country's noble history and progress
OUR MISSION
To transform the Pasig River and its environs into a showcase of a new quality of urban life
OUR GOAL
Restore the river's water quality to Class C level

To save the Pasig River and restore its glory, the PRRC relies on the power of
CONVERGENCE

CONVERGENCE
- Is the merging of two or more ideas, groups, industries, technologies, advocacies, and/or resources that bridges the gaps and leads to the formation of a unified whole.
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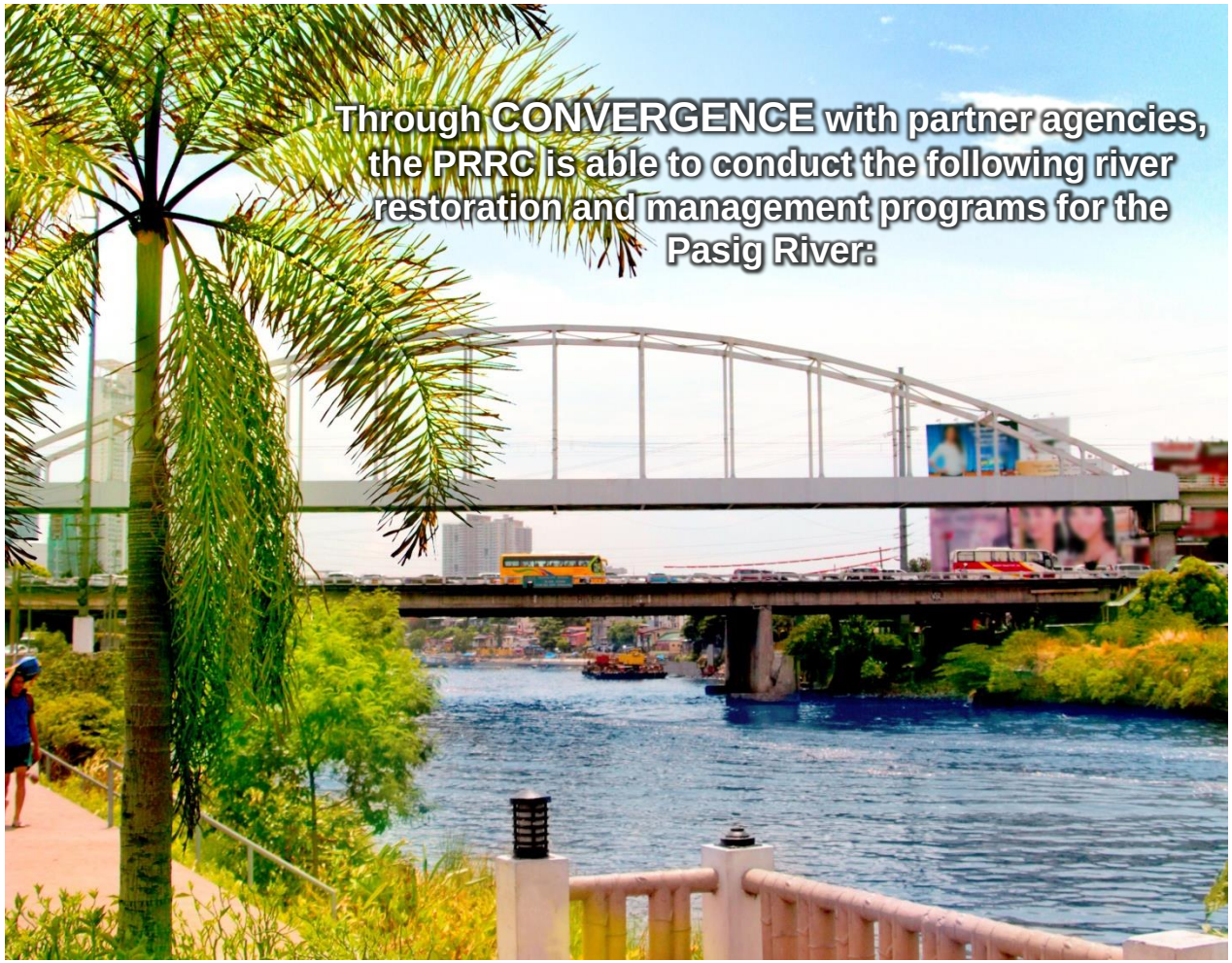
PRRC IS
CONVERGENCE
ITSELF

PRRC is composed of representatives from various agencies in the national government, local government, non-government, and private agencies organized into Technical Working Committees in order to fully address the different sectoral concerns of rehabilitating the Pasig River.


Through CONVERGENCE with partner agencies, the PRRC is able to conduct the following river restoration and management programs for the Pasig River:

EASEMENT RECOVERY

Convergence with the Local Inter-agency Committee allows PRRC to recover the 3-meter or 10-meter easements from informal settlements or private structure which dump waste on the river's waterways.

HOUSING AND RESETTLEMENT

Through convergence with our partners, PRRC is able to save lives from the dangers of living along the riverbanks by relocating informal settler families to decent socialized housing units.

RIVERBANKS DEVELOPMENT

With the help of its partner agencies, PRRC is able to transform recovered easements into environmental preservation areas in the form of linear parks, walkways, and greenbelts.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

With the help of allied environmental agencies and the support of groups and/or companies, PRRC is able to implement water quality improvement technologies such as bioremediation and phytoremediation.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

PRRC's River Warriors and River Patrols collect solid waste daily in the different waterways of the Pasig River system. However, with the participation of our partner agencies, the clean-up efforts and results become much more significant.

MULTILEVEL PUBLIC AWARENESS

PRRC partners with the media and other advocacy groups to effectively create multilevel public awareness to transform the communities into environmentally-aware and responsible citizens who will contribute to the success of PRRC's projects, programs, and activities.

LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

It is also important that livelihood opportunities are provided to our communities so that they would further develop a sense of responsibility in the environment. Thankfully, PRRC has partners that help us provide livelihood programs that enable our people to augment their daily needs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PRRC also believes that the participation of the communities is critical in the maintenance and sustainability of our projects, programs, and activities. As such, we converge with the local government to ensure that communities are engaged in this continuing advocacy to save our Pasig River and its environs.

Convergence has taught us that

ONE AGENCY CANNOT DO IT ALONE.

Convergence lets us realize that

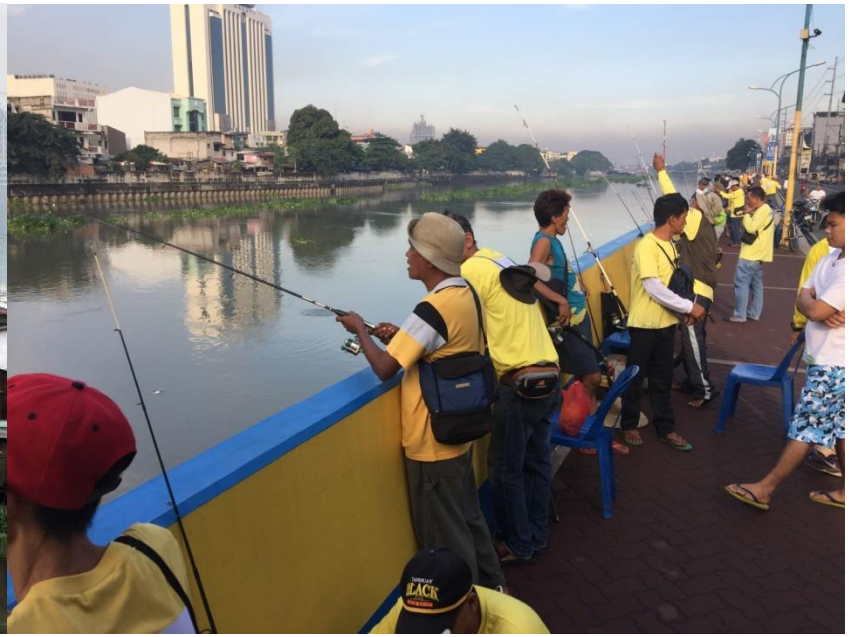
WE CAN EFFECTIVELY USE OUR RESOURCES IF WE SHARE THEM EQUITABLY AND COMMIT TO ONE COMMON GOAL.

Through convergence,

WE ARE ABLE TO DELIVER MORE SIGNIFICANT OUTPUTS WITH GREATER IMPACT.

Because of convergence,

WE ARE ABLE TO CHANGE LIVES POSITIVELY.



Through convergence,

WE ARE NOW BEGINNING TO BRING LIFE BACK TO A ONCE DYING AND AILING RIVER…

THROUGH CONVERGENCE,
WE ARE ABLE TO
SAVE THE WORLD
ONE RIVER AT A TIME.

A NEW PASIG RIVER
CLEAN AND ALIVE
THANK YOU!
MARAMING SALAMAT!
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