Discussion notes on [EA Philippines Q&A](#) (hosted by Hispanic EA community) with [Brian Tan](#)
Notes written by Luke Eure, based on Youtube video. I was not actually at the session

- **Takeaways / implications for growing EA orgs in other developing countries**
  - Potential to do research on local charity effectiveness and local priorities research, and publish reports
  - Charity entrepreneurship has an incubation programme that might be of interest. Programme may be done in 2022
  - Err on the side of applying for community building grants (i.e. from the EA Infrastructure Fund). Takes 6-10 hours to apply, but you can get funding for 6-12 months
  - It is challenging to get jobs at global EA orgs, as these jobs are usually tailored to people from developed countries. But potential to work remote as a freelancer and leverage lower labor costs
  - You can run your own fellowships in partnership with a brand like Stanford
  - EA forum post on problem profile: [Mental health in Philippines on EA Forum here](#)
- Background on EA Philippines (EA PH)
  - EA Philippines started from someone interested in animal activism
  - EA PH started with monthly meetings, including speakers from nearby charities like IPA
  - In 2020 Brian decided to try to run EA PH full-time
  - Received community building grant from CEA
  - Managed by one full-time person (Brian Tan) and two 10-hour-per-week part time people
- Growth
  - 5 factors to strong growth: strong founding team, intro to EA fellowships, getting community building grant, having student chapters, various projects people can volunteer for
    - Strong founding team
      - Founding team had variety of backgrounds, animal activism, tech (including graphic design skills), government and nonprofit sector
    - Fellowship
      - Able to average 20+ people at events, and decided to focus on those people who were involved and interested. Had a fellowship based on Harvard Arete in 2020
    - Got student to start student chapters from fellowship
    - Community building grant allowed Brian to work five days a week, full time, on EA PH
    - Projects: students were interested in founding local organisations. They do research on local charity effectiveness and local priorities research. And publish reports

- People engage when feeling included in community. Make sure to get to know people on personal level
- Characteristics of strong founding teams:
  - Understanding of EA principles and causes. Hopefully founding team has done fellowship of some kind
  - Strong organisational and event skills
  - Ability to connect with a wide range of people
  - It's an open question about whether in a country on community-building, you should focus on one topic or be broad. But likely want to be more broad
  - Important to have co-organisers. University groups in Philippines typically have 5-7 leaders
- How is it different from developed countries?
  - Developed countries focus on arguments about 100x multiplier from donating outside your country. In Philippines it's really only a like a 5x multiplier. So that's not as salient
  - Career paths are very different. In US/UK you can default to 80K hours. But causes prioritization and career options are different in developing country
  - He now thinks EA PH should focus more on near-term causes, because that's where developing country comparative advantage is
  - Philippines and South America should probably focus more on animal wellfare relative to Sub-Saharan Africa because health and wellbeing have bigger deficits in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Advantages of EA PH-specific programmes vs. joining worldwide events
  - Sometimes harder for worldwide events to resonate with Filipinos
  - Can be valuable to organise own fellowship. Potential also to volunteer to lead worldwide workshops
  - You can run your own fellowships in partnership with a brand like Stanford
  - [Columbia (the country) group is planning to adapt Stanford fellowship curriculum to Columbian context]
  - EA PH is adapting resources to Filipinos. E.g., providing disclaimer when providing *Doing Good Better* that it is aimed at developed country audience
  - EA PH has advantage in that many Filipinos speak English, so they haven't had to translate materials. But discussions occur in Filipino sometimes, especially at universities
  - Anecdotally, EA Japan, France, and Brazil translate materials
- Challenges in accessing international internships
  - Only a couple success stories. One person was able to work as virtual assistant to long-termist organization
  - A path for other developing countries could be to work remotely freelance and exploit low cost of labor to get jobs at EA orgs
  - Nonprofit and government jobs can be valuable

- Engaging in local priorities research
  - [In Columbia, most are interested in health and development]
  - Hard to do local priorities research as a student
  - EA PH is working on problem profiles on mental health in Philippines, poverty in Philippines, animal welfare in Philippines. [Mental health on EA Forum here](#)
- Creating EA PH job board
  - Identified EA-recommended orgs with jos in Philippines
  - Put some mental health orgs, animal welfare, opportunities abroad, government work in economics, some AI roles
  - Most are internship focused for students
  - Job board shouldn't necessarily be priority, but they have a grant and time
- Identifying priority areas
  - Ranked EA causes on whether Philippines has comparative advantage
  - Charity entrepreneurship has an incubation programme that might be of interest. Can be used to learn how to research effective charities
- Measuring impact through two metrics
  - How many people engaged with EA, at different levels of engagement
  - How many engaged people are able to enter EA-aligned career paths?
  - EA PH wrote case studies about individuals they successfully impacted
  - Most of your impact will be with a few people
- Applying for community-building grant
  - Applied with written application, had 2 interviews, and were funded for 12 months. Process may be different now
- Prioritization of donations vs other activities
  - Don't really promote donations but people are naturally interested
  - It can be valuable to identify highest-effectiveness local charities to get people locally outside the EA to donate to