



# SERP-P NEWS

Innovating Knowledge Exchange in Policy Research

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## Socioeconomic Issue on Spotlight<sup>1</sup> DOMESTIC MIGRATION

migration—also known as internal migration—is defined as the “movement of people to another location within the same country” (Nguiagain 1986, p. 4).

According to Nguiagain (1986), about 2.8 million Filipinos were domestic migrants from 1975 to 1980. Three decades later, recent data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (2012) show not much has changed: about 2.9 million Filipinos have migrated to another location within the Philippines. With the 81.9 million population of the

*continued on page 6*

## SERP-P Network celebrates accomplishments, forges commitments at 4th biennial meeting

More than 50 representatives from 29 member-institutions in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao took part in the 4th Network Biennial Meeting of the Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) Project held on December 6, 2016, at the PIDS Office in Quezon City. The Biennial Meeting aimed to strengthen the partnership between and among the SERP-P member-institutions; discuss the issues, challenges, and opportunities relevant in implementing the project; and identify strategies and develop future pathways for SERP-P.

*continued on page 2*

For 40 years of continuously deploying overseas workers, international migration has impacted on the Philippine society in many ways (Orbeta and Abrigo 2011). Although this received much more attention than domestic migration, the latter has also played an important part in the country’s transition to being one of Asia’s fastest-growing economies. Domestic

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 7th ADB-ADBI-OECD-ILO Roundtable on Labor Migration in Asia

ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines  
18–19 January 2017

### Making Trade Inclusive: Symposium on SMEs and Trade Adjustment

ADBI, Tokyo, Japan  
18 January 2017

### 8th ADB Business Opportunities Fair 2017

ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines  
22–23 March 2017

The ADB Business Opportunities Fair (BOF) is a one-stop forum for consultants, contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers looking to provide goods and services for ADB projects.

### Civil Society Policy Forum

World Bank Group / IMF 2017  
Spring Meetings  
18–21 April 2017



SERP-P Network... continued from page 1

In his opening remarks, Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) President Gilberto Llanto noted that in an era where changes are coming from many different ways, the value of organizations like SERP-P becomes more pronounced. “SERP-P is about the truth; it is about empirical evidence and producing policies that are evidence-based,” he remarked. Hinting on the importance of truth, Llanto emphasized the role of SERP-P in creating an avenue not for post-truth, which is largely based on emotional appeal or subjective interpretation, but for the “unvarnished truth”.

As the first electronic repository of policy research that capitalizes on knowledge networking in the country, Llanto said that since 2002, SERP-P has endeavored to share and integrate the research work of different institutions, particularly universities, to reach a wider audience and to penetrate different stakeholders’ agenda.

“This is how you optimize its [research] value: by giving people the opportunity to mine data and ideas, which they use to improve society,” Llanto added.

As one of the prime movers of SERP-P since its launch 14 years ago, PIDS Senior Research Fellow and SERP-P Technical Adviser Dr. Aniceto Orbeta

Jr. provided a brief history of the project. According to him, SERP-P emerged as a function of the mandate of PIDS to provide research materials that support the formulation of national development plans and policies.

With limited resources, however, Orbeta said that “there is a natural need for PIDS to reach out to universities, colleges, and other research institutions, and seek their assistance in jointly addressing the policy research gaps of the country.”

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GILBERTO LLANTO  
PIDS President

Orbeta, therefore, noted that a network of research institutions sharing their research outputs is a better way of fulfilling the mandate of PIDS. Ultimately, the goal is to influence policy discussions with evidence-based research and, eventually, craft effective and efficient policies.

“We cannot fill all the research needs of the country; that is the value of the network. This where SERP-P comes in. One can think of SERP-P as essentially a continuous research fair on the web,” stressed Orbeta.

### SERP-P accomplishments

SERP-P Project Manager Dr. Sheila Siar then presented the accomplishments of the project

Coming from different government, academic, and research institutions, the SERP-P Network commits to strengthen its partnership in pursuing innovative knowledge exchange mechanisms in the field of policy research.



since the last biennial meeting in 2014. With the contributions from the SERP-P Network, the portal is now home to more than 5,600 socioeconomic materials.

In her presentation, Siar discussed the two main challenges confronted by the project: (1) lack of contributions from inactive member-institutions and (2) low level of awareness of SERP-P among its intended users. To resolve this, Siar reported that the SERP-P team at PIDS continuously conducts coaching sessions in using the SERP-P content management system (CMS). SERP-P reorientation and promotion programs, which are an attempt to raise the awareness of the research community about SERP-P, were also conducted in different knowledge events in the country. Most notable are the Database Management Seminar for the Mindanao Knowledge Center (MKC) held in Davao City, a presentation at the Young Economists' International Conference held in Manila, and promotional activities simultaneously conducted with PIDS co-sponsored events in Butuan and Cebu. Late in 2015, the SERP-P team also participated in the Global Open Knowledge Hub meeting in Brighton, United Kingdom.

Other accomplishments include the redesign of the SERP-P website, automatic updating of the SERP-P mobile page, and continuous production of the SERP-P News and SERP-P Monthly. Siar also reported that starting in 2016, unique users of the SERP-P website increased from less than 1000 users to more than 2000.

“SERP-P is not owned by PIDS. It is OUR project, our collective endeavor. With the cooperation and support of all member-institutions, we can accomplish more in the coming years,” Siar said. She added that the meeting is a venue to chart future pathways for SERP-P and to craft strategies that will address persistent issues, particularly the inactivity of some SERP-P member-institutions.

### Engaging SERP-P member-institutions

Following the presentation of accomplishments, Jun Bautista and Mark Vincent Aranas, SERP-P web developer and coordinator, respectively, presented the new SERP-P website and demonstrated how to use the SERP-P CMS.

Motivated by the feedback received from the knowledge events attended by the SERP-P team, the redesign of the SERP-P website was centered on improving its facilities, particularly in terms of search options; navigating inside the website; updating statistics; and adding new features, such as spotlight issues for researchers and publications. According to Bautista, the new website intends to not only improve how the website looks (i.e., frontend) but also improve the “total user experience” of SERP-P.

Meanwhile, Aranas demonstrated how to upload publications on the SERP-P CMS. He said that the CMS was designed to provide the member-institutions with direct access to SERP-P by giving them login credentials and allowing them to upload

their own publications. He added that member-institutions can upload materials, news articles, and events through the CMS. During the demonstration, problems confronted by member-institutions in terms of contributing materials also surfaced. These include poor Internet connection, particularly among state universities and colleges; lack of manpower; and clearance issues.

To aid the participants with information regarding copyright and licensing, Aranas also tackled ways on how to employ the open access agenda. He centered his presentation on licensing content using Creative Commons licenses. According to Aranas, explicitly giving a material a license allows the copyright holder to determine how the content can be reused, revised, remixed, and/or redistributed. He stressed, however, that copyright holders or authors should assign the correct and appropriate license from the start, as this is irrevocable.

Furthermore, to demonstrate a prolific partnership between the SERP-P team at PIDS and another member-institution, Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) Executive Director Dr. Janet Lopez talked about the MKC, whose goal is to serve as the leading resource of policy research and experts on Mindanao, and to share research studies among academic institutions, government agencies, and international organizations. Lopez acknowledged the assistance of the SERP-P team in helping them come up with strategies in managing their own database.

“Since we have been engaged with PIDS [through SERP-P] in a number of initiatives in Mindanao, the

momentum of the MKC has been fast-tracked,” Lopez noted.

### Ways forward

During the afternoon session, an interactive group work on strategic forecasting was conducted. The activity aimed to develop short-, medium-, and long-term visions for the SERP-Project (i.e., for 2018, 2020, and 2022, respectively). Strategies in the form of activities and policies to achieve these goals were also discussed.

Divided into five groups, the participants developed future pathways for the SERP-P Project. Some recurring themes surfaced.

For 2018, the vision is for a more strengthened and engaged SERP-P Network with members fully committed in contributing materials to the portal and in promoting the open access agenda. In 2020, the participants envision the SERP-P website as one of the leading open access repository of research materials in the country, with a wider reach and expanded research coverage. In 2022, the participants envision a SERP-P Project that finds its way into the global arena, with the goal of establishing a research culture among its primary stakeholders. These pathways, according to Aranas, will serve as the compass of the project in the next few years, particularly in the celebration of the 20th anniversary of SERP-P in 2022.

To achieve these goals, the participants drew specific recommendations that include, among others: pursuing formalization of partnership through



SERP-P Coordinator Mark Vincent Aranas discusses the importance of licensing content in employing the open access agenda.



Joined by PIDS President Dr. Gilberto Llanto and SERP-P Project Manager Dr. Sheila Siar, the following are the awardees of the certificate of recognition given to the most active SERP-P member-institutions (clockwise): MinDA, BSP, CPU, UPLB-CSPPS, Silliman University, and CPBRD. Not in the photo is NEDA-Caraga.

a memorandum of understanding; incentivizing most active members through nonmonetary measures, such as providing certificates of recognition; increasing social media presence by liking and sharing SERP-P materials and events on Facebook; conducting more frequent meetings and promotional activities by visiting the locale of each member-institution; developing a briefing package or kit about SERP-P and the open access agenda, which can be used by SERP-P coordinators in promoting the project; and pursuing a study on SERP-P website users (i.e., demographics) to further customize knowledge services.

“In the succeeding years, the challenge to SERP-P is how to stay relevant amid increasing competition, and how to harness the advancements in technology to better improve our services. Our competitive advantage is that we are composed of 53 member-institutions—with diverse research expertise and resources—all working toward innovating knowledge exchange and making sure information is available and easily accessible for the research community,” said Aranas.

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MARK VINCENT ARANAS  
SERP-P Coordinator

To get these plans in motion, commitment, according to Siar, is necessary. She added: “commitment is something that we should continuously build and demonstrate.” She also reminded the participants that SERP-P is not just a portal but also a network composed of people with talents and research capacities. Siar added that each member-institution has a duty to the research community, to policymakers, and to the public to serve as champions of knowledge exchange and help ensure that policies are backed up by evidence-based research.

At the end of the meeting, seven member-institutions were given certificates of recognition for being the most active members of SERP-P in terms of contributing materials to the SERP-P database from 2014 to 2016. These are (1) MinDA, (2) *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, (3) Central Philippine University, (4) University of the Philippines Los Baños-Center for Strategic Planning and Policy Studies, (5) Silliman University, (6) Congressional Planning and Budget Research Department of the House of Representatives, and (7) National Economic and Development Authority-Caraga. ■

country in 2010, 95.5 percent were nonmovers or have the same city/municipality of residence from 2005 to 2010; the rest were movers. Out of the 2.9 million movers, 50.4 percent were long distance movers (different province from 2005 to 2010); 45.4 percent were short distance movers (different city but same province from 2005 to 2010); and 4.2 percent were international immigrants (resided in a foreign country in 2005 and were residing in the Philippines in 2010). These data mirror [Nguia gain's](#) study in 1986.

Most of these domestic migrants moved from a rural area to the metropolitan—a phenomenon referred to as the rural-to-urban shift. This phenomenon affects national development and may result in rapid urbanization. The National Capital Region remains the top destination among movers from rural areas. The urban and rural areas offer different opportunities and attracts different types of migrants.

According to [Quisumbing and McNiven \(2006\)](#), female migrants outnumbered male with 53.1 percent and 37.8 percent, respectively. They also noted that the motives for moving among men and women are different. Starting a new job is the main reason why male migrants move to rural areas; this is followed by getting married. For female migrants, marriage is the main reason why they move to rural areas. Starting a new job is just secondary. Meanwhile, job security and better schools are the primary reasons why both male and female migrants move to urban areas ([Quisumbing and McNiven 2006](#)).

Furthermore, individuals who attained a higher level of education are more attracted to migrate in urban areas partly because young people move to further their education and find better job opportunities ([Quisumbing and McNiven 2006](#); [Pernia 1979](#)). On the other hand, rural areas mostly attract individuals who want to engage in farming activities. Family-related decisions, such as marriage or proximity to relatives, are also some of the considerations why individuals opt to migrate in rural areas.

[Quisumbing and McNiven \(2006\)](#), however, said that it is impossible for all of these domestic migrants to get better occupations in metropolitan areas, and assure that they can send money to their families. In fact, most male migrants end up in manual labor, transportation work, or crafts and trades, which are low-earning jobs. In contrast, female migrants are more likely to have professional

and managerial work. This demonstrates how migration becomes a strategy for the poor to escape poverty in rural areas.

Despite having permanent jobs and experience, workers' income remains a contentious issue, as it is inadequate to support a family ([Armas 1978](#); [Aldaba 2000](#)). [Nguia gain \(1986\)](#) suggests that economic structural change should be done to prioritize agriculture-related industries, which are more labor than capital intensive. He also believes that the educational system and its programs must be reformed: it must be more rural adapted rather than urban oriented, so that rural areas will not drain away young people and well-educated individuals.

The Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) provides related studies that attempt to explore issues on diaspora, remittances, and poverty ([Pernia 2006](#)); migration in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ([Orbeta and Gonzales 2013](#)); forced migration ([Fabian 2004](#)); Philippine migration laws and regulations ([Ambito and Banzon 2011](#)); and international labor migration and remittances ([Orbeta and Zosa 2009](#)). ■

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<sup>1</sup> Socioeconomic Issue on Spotlight is a write-up that explains socioeconomic and development issues using materials available on the SERP-P website. This issue of SIS was penned by Nadine Gillan H. Garcia, a communication research student from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and a former intern at PIDS.

## SERP-P Resources on Domestic Migration

- [Migration and the Rural-Urban Continuum: Evidence from Bukidnon, Philippines](#)
- [Employment Effects of Legal Minimum Wage in Philippine Manufacturing Industries](#)
- [Trends and Patterns of Internal Migration in the Philippines](#)
- [An Intersectoral and Sequential Analysis of Migration Decision: Philippines](#)
- [Diaspora, Remittances, and Poverty in RP's Regions](#)
- [Review of Philippine Migration Laws and Regulations: Gains, Gaps, Prospects](#)
- [Case Study of Zamboanga City \(Forced Migration Area\)](#)

For more migration-related studies, simply type 'migration' in the Search box of the [SERP-P website](#).

# LATEST SERP-P RESOURCES

- Comprehensive Study on Credit Programs to Smallholders
- Seeking Universal Health Coverage of Social Health Insurance in Three Asian Countries: China, Thailand, and Viet Nam
- Impact Evaluation of the Agricultural Insurance Program of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation on Agricultural Producers in Central Visayas
- Analysis of Out-of-Pocket Expenditures in the Philippines
- Why Manufacturing Resurgence Will Mean More Services, Not Less
- Warehouse Receipts as a System for Improving the Efficiency of Rice and Corn Marketing in the Philippines
- Reducing the Unintended Consequence of Overfishing Due to Open Access: Learning from the Zamboanga Experience
- Evaluation of the Impact of the Agricultural Insurance Program of PCIC on Rice Producers in Region VI
- Impact Evaluation of Banana Insurance Program of the PCIC in the Davao Region
- Research on Urban Resilience to Natural Disasters of Households, Firms, and Communities in the Philippines
- Rent Control in the Philippines: An Update
- Trends in Out-of-School Children and Other Basic Education Statistics

Download the minutes of the meeting of the 4th SERP-P Network Biennial Meeting [here](#).



## FEATURED MEMBER

Central Philippine University



The Central Philippine University (CPU) is a nonstock, nonprofit Christian Institution of higher learning, where a well-rounded program of education is offered under influences that strengthen faith and build up character.

It was founded in 1905 as the Jaro Industrial School by missionaries of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. It started as an Elementary Vocational School for poor boys who worked for their board and tuition. The school also had the distinction of having organized the first student government in the country (i.e., the Jaro Industrial School Republic) and one of the oldest student's newspapers (i.e., the Central Echo).

[Click here to read more.](#)

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities at [PIDS](#)  
Career opportunities at [NEDA](#)  
Career opportunities at [SEARCHA](#)  
Career opportunities at [ASoG](#)  
Career opportunities at [UP NCPAG](#)  
Career opportunities at [UP CIDS](#)

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### SERP-P Team at PIDS:

**Sheila V. Siar**, Project Manager  
**Mark Vincent P. Aranas**, SERP-P Coordinator  
**Gilberto Llanto and Aniceto Orbeta Jr.**, Technical Advisers



**Philippine Institute for Development Studies**  
18F Three Cyberpod Centris, North Tower  
EDSA cor. Quezon Ave., Quezon City

If you want your forthcoming events, latest publications, and other announcements to be included on the *SERP-P News*, contact:

**Mark Vincent P. Aranas**  
SERP-P Coordinator  
Email: [maranas@mail.pids.gov.ph](mailto:maranas@mail.pids.gov.ph)  
Tel.: 877-4022