



# SERP-P NEWS

Innovating Knowledge Exchange in Policy Research

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## Socioeconomic Issue on Spotlight! SOCIAL PROTECTION

Despite various poverty reduction programs, many Filipino households remain vulnerable to poverty. (Mina and Imai 2016). Social protection is an important tool to improve the Filipino households' economic and social standing and strengthen their resilience in the face of today's complex and interconnected risks.

One such program is the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (4Ps). Given that 4Ps comes with automatic enrolment into the social health insurance program, Paqueo and Abrigo (2017) found that it has greatly helped in increasing the health insurance coverage in the country, especially among the poor. In another study, Orbeta and Paqueo (2016) noted that 4Ps has also been an effective measure to keep Filipino children in school. This is expected to improve human capital formation in the country.

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## SERP-P Network gears up for Industry 4.0

A total of 65 representatives from 32 partner-institutions in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao took part in the 5th Network Biennial Meeting of the Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) Project held on December 10, 2018, at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) in Quezon City. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of the SERP-P project implementation and plan for ways forward. It was also aimed at strengthening the partnership in knowledge exchange among the 54 members of the SERP-P Network. This year's theme was "Gearing Up for SERP-P 4.0".

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL FOR APPLICANTS:

The *Philippine Journal of Public Policy* (PJPP), the annual journal of the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS), invites interested policy researchers to apply as fellows to the 2019 PJPP Writeshop. Visit [bit.ly/pjppwriteshop](http://bit.ly/pjppwriteshop) for complete application guidelines or email [cidspublications@up.edu.ph](mailto:cidspublications@up.edu.ph) for inquiries.

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

**"Back-to-Back Workshops on Communicating Research with Policy Makers and Policy Proposal Development on Inclusive Agricultural Value Chains"**

SEARCHA, College, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines  
25 February to 1 March 2019  
Application deadline: 8 February 2019  
More info: <http://bit.ly/2TmzyAP>

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

29th National Statistics Month (NSM)  
More info here: <https://goo.gl/QueC4ju>





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In her opening remarks, PIDS President Celia Reyes recognized SERP-P as a resilient knowledge network due to the strong partnership among the network members. “SERP-P can be considered a product of the information age in which the centerpiece is the concept of a knowledge-based economy. But it is even more than that. Because SERP-P promotes knowledge networking, it is also part of a network economy where the knowledge produced by its members are shared among and across various local and international networks,” Dr. Reyes added.

Commenting on the theme, Dr. Reyes emphasized that as the Philippines enters the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRe), also known as Industry 4.0, digital technologies should be explored to produce smart and sustainable products and services that are also accessible to all segments of society.

“We should be open to explore new things and be ready to learn, unlearn, and relearn. We should be open to collaborate with one another and with other sectors and stakeholders in generating new knowledge, in applying them, and in evaluating their usefulness,” Dr. Reyes concluded.

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**CELIA M. REYES**  
PIDS President

### SERP-P accomplishments

SERP-P Project Manager Sheila Siar together with SERP-P Coordinator Jachin Aberilla then presented the accomplishments of the project since the last biennial meeting in 2016. Dr. Siar revisited the outputs of the visioning exercise from the 4th biennial meeting and mentioned that one of the main goals of the network for 2018 is to have 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. With that, the team announced that from 5,654 materials in 2016, the portal is now home to more than 6,600 materials from the contributions of partner-institutions.

Aberilla discussed the two main challenges confronted by the project: (1) the persistent low participation of some partner-institutions and (2) the low level of awareness of the benefits of SERP-P among its intended users.

Interventions have been introduced by the SERP-P team to resolve these, such as by conducting regular reorientations in using the SERP-P content management system (CMS). In 2018 alone, Siar and Aberilla visited and conducted reorientations for 11 SERP-P partner-institutions, namely, AIM Rizalino S. Navarro Policy Center for Competitiveness (AIM

RSN PCC), GIZ Philippines, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), UP National Center for Public Administration and Governance (UP NCPAG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Central Office, DLSU Social Development Research Center, (SDRC) DLSU University Research Coordination Office (URCO), Foreign Service Institute (FSI), UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS), UP School of Economics, Philexport Corporation, and SEAMEO Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (INNOTECH).

To address the second challenge, additional SERP-P promotional programs were introduced to raise awareness of the project. These consisted of a video which was posted on the PIDS and SERP-P social media pages and a poster which was distributed to partner-institutions. Other activities include the continuous production of the SERP-P News and SERP-P Monthly, and the active presence of SERP-P on social media through its Facebook account. In November 2018, the SERP-P team also visited the Polytechnic University of the Philippines Manila to introduce the SERP-P project.

### Gearing up for Industry 4.0

To aid the participants in gearing up for Industry 4.0, resource speakers were invited to talk about innovations in digital technology and related issues. Ms. Luisa Gelisan, director of UP Open

University’s (UPOU) Multimedia Center, focused on massive open distance e-learning (MODEL), the official massive open online courses (MOOCs) platform pioneered by the university. Discussing the evolution and development of MODEL, Gelisan noted that innovations in this area were influenced by the changing learning environment and needs, characteristics, and circumstances of the learners. The use of MODEL, she said, has widened the university’s reach especially outside the country.

Meanwhile, Mr. Patrick Salamat, former communications director at the Department of Education and currently consultant at NEDA, shared tips on how to use social media for knowledge dissemination. He encouraged the participants to maximize the use of social media in reaching their audiences, in amplifying other communication channels, and in gathering feedback.

For her part, Atty. Josephine R. Santiago, director-general of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP), discussed issues on intellectual property which have become increasingly complex under Industry 4.0.

A presentation on other PIDS initiatives in knowledge dissemination was also held during the lunch break. Dr. Aubrey Tabuga, Ms. Blesila Datu Mondez, and Mr. Arkin Arboneda from the Research Department conducted a demo on using the Economic and Social Database and the GIS-



based Philippine Socioeconomic Profile Database. Ms. Clarissa Lagoras, PIDS librarian, introduced the PIDS Corners. A PIDS Corner is a small section in a college/university or local government library that contains various PIDS publications. Launched in 2006, this dissemination strategy aims to make PIDS knowledge materials accessible at the local and community levels, especially in areas outside of Metro Manila, which may have limited access to socioeconomic references. There are currently 25 PIDS Corners across the country.

### Toward SERP-P 4.0

In the afternoon, the SERP-P coordinators/representatives reported on their SERP-P-related accomplishments and activities. Ten partner-institutions reported on the publications they contributed to SERP-P as well as their promotional activities related to SERP-P. Some of them announced possible research collaborations for their fellow partners.

An interactive workshop followed. Divided into four groups, participants brainstormed on ways to (1) enhance the SERP-P database, (2) encourage more people to use SERP-P, and (3) strengthen the collaboration among the partner-institutions.

Recurring suggestions to enhance the SERP-P database were to have an information kit with a guide on how to navigate the CMS, improve the search filtering feature of the website, improve the website analytics, provide a comment section or

suggestion box for each material where users can post their feedback, and create a SERP-P mobile application.

On encouraging more people to use SERP-P, participants suggested the continuous use of social media and encouraging partner-institutions to promote SERP-P in their respective institutions and networks.

To strengthen the partnership among the network members, participants suggested having a Facebook group for more regular and frequent communication and conducting the SERP-P meeting annually instead of every two years with the hosting of the venue to be rotated among the partner-institutions. They also suggested promoting greater collaboration through the conduct of joint projects and activities.

At the end of the meeting, 10 partner-institutions were given plaques of recognition for being the most active SERP-P members from 2017 to 2018. The awardees are (1) Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), (2) Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), (3) Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), (4) GIZ Philippines, (5) UPLB Center for Strategic Planning and Policy Studies (UPLB CSPPS), (6) AIM RSN PCC, (7) UP NCPAG, (8) FSI, (9) SEAMEO INNOTECH, and (10) Congressional Planning and Budget Research (CPBRD) of the House of Representatives



Speakers encouraged the participants in gearing up for Industry 4.0 by discussing innovations in education delivery and knowledge dissemination and how to address intellectual property issues.



During the workshop, participants brainstormed on how to improve the SERP-P database, how to increase the number of SERP-P users, and how to further strengthen the SERP-P network.



PIDS Vice President Dr. Marife M. Ballesteros and SERP-P Project Manager Dr. Sheila Siar join the the most active SERP-P partner-institutions from 2017 to 2018 (clockwise) FSI, SEARCA, AIM RSN PCC, SEAMEO INNOTECH, and CPBRD. Other awardees include UP NCPAG, PCAARRD, GIZ Philippines, BSP, and UPLB CSPPS.



The government also implements labor market interventions to support the country's workforce. These include skills development and training programs, such as the scholarships provided by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, which can increase the employment prospects of their beneficiaries (**Orbeta and Abrigo 2013**). The Social Security System has also implemented the AlkanSSSy program to encourage those from the informal sector to save part of their daily income for their social security (**Conchada 2016**).

Aside from these, social protection in the Philippines also covers social insurance to address the risks associated with disability, work-related injury, old age, and crop disasters (**Cabral 2008**). Among these interventions are public retirement and pension plans, and agricultural insurance.

While there are successful programs, not all social protection efforts in the country share the same story. This is particularly true in the case of the Agricultural Insurance Program (AIP) managed by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation. **Virola (2017)** found the AIP to be suffering from low penetration rate, with less than 5 percent of rice farmers availing of its services. The PCIC has also failed to extend its coverage to typhoon-prone areas, such as the Bicol Region.

Current social protection programs, particularly the 4Ps and the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP), also tend to suffer from leakage issues. In a study, **Cabalfin (2017)** saw that the NHIP also benefits the nonpoor sector. Meanwhile, **Reyes et al. (2015)** discovered that roughly 3 in every 10 beneficiaries of the 4Ps are nonpoor. Both studies recommend strengthening these programs' targeting system to address leakage issues. They also urged the government to invest in monitoring and evaluation to ensure that these interventions are meeting their objectives.

Recent devastating events, such as the 2013 Super Typhoon Haiyan and the 2017 Sarangani earthquake, reflect the need for more innovative social protection measures in the country. To this end, **Dacuycuy and Baje (2017)** recommended the adoption of adaptive social protection, a relatively new concept that integrates social protection, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction measures to strengthen poverty reduction efforts.

The Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) has a collection of studies on social protection, including those by **Cuenca (2016)** on social protection in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation member-economies, **Mendoza et al. (2013)** on challenges and opportunities for female youth employment and advancement, and **Usui (2011)** on searching for effective poverty interventions in the Philippines.

For other related studies, simply type "social protection" in the search box of the SERP-P website.

## SERP-P Resources on Social Protection

- **Social Protection for Men and Women in the Philippines: Some Insights for Improving Program Design of Social Insurance Schemes**
- **A Public Expenditure Review of Social Protection Programs in the Philippines**
- **Why Vulnerability Assessment Matters for Poverty Reduction**
- **Farmers still Struggle to Afford Agri Insurance**
- **Social Protection in the Philippines**
- **Toward an Adaptive Social Protection in the Philippines**
- **Health Financing for the Poor in the Philippines: Final Report**
- **Social Protection in APEC: In Pursuit of Inclusive Growth**

A prolific writer, Sta. Ana is also a columnist of *BusinessWorld* and *Rappler* and has contributed papers to several volumes and journals. He is also an editor and author of several publications, including *Philippine Institutions*, and *Growth and Prosperity for All* and *The State and the Market: Essays on a Socially Oriented Economy*. More recently, he edited a forthcoming volume on Philippine institutions and long-term prosperity.

Outside these fields, he serves as a trustee of nongovernment organizations, such as Mama Sita Foundation, Legal Rights Resource Center, Samdhana, and Bantay Kita.

For publications of Sta. Ana in the SERP-P, simply type "Sta. Ana" in the search box of the SERP-P website or click the following link: <https://serp-p.pids.gov.ph/publications?auth=2181>

## LATEST SERP-P RESOURCES

- **Senior High School and the Labor Market**
- **Regulatory Measures Affecting Service Trade and Investment: Information and Communications Technology Services**
- **Benefit-Cost Analysis of the Resurgent Irrigation System Program of the Philippines**
- **Economic Principles for Rightsizing Government**
- **Child Stunting Prevention: The Challenge of Mobilizing Local Governments for National Impact**
- **Impact Evaluation Design for the CHED K-to-12 Transition Program**
- **Are We Missing Out on the Demographic Dividend? Trends and Prospects**
- **Devolution of Health Services, Fiscal Decentralization, and Antenatal Care in the Philippines**
- **Assessment of TRAIN's Coal and Petroleum Excise Taxes: Environmental Benefits and Impacts on Sectoral Employment and Household Welfare**
- **Regulatory Measures Affecting Services Trade and Investment: Financial Services**
- **The Philippine Electric Power Industry Under EPIRA**
- **Linking Cities to Finance**
- **Documenting Pre-feasibility Study Process**
- **Public-Private Partnership Guide for Municipalities**
- **City Infrastructure Investment Programming and Prioritization Toolkit: User Manual**

Download the presentation and photos during the 5th SERP-P Network Biennial Meeting **here**:

5th  
SERP-P  
NETWORK BIENNIAL MEETING  
Theme: "Gearing Up for SERP-P 4.0"  
December 10, 2018  
PIDS Office, Quezon City

**SERP-P Team at PIDS:**  
**Sheila V. Siar**, Project Manager  
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## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities at **PIDS**  
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 Career opportunities for **economists**

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

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