The Asian Development Bank's National Urban Assessment Report in 2014 classified the Philippines as a highly urbanized nation. Based on the same report, 48.9 percent of the 94 million Filipinos in 2010 were living in urban areas. Expectedly, 16 from the 33 cities classified as highly urbanized cities (HUCs) are in the National Capital Region. Four out of these 33 HUCs—Caloocan City, City of Manila, Quezon City, and Davao City—have at least one million inhabitants. What seems to be a form of rapid urbanization, as experienced in the country, not only puts pressure on urban infrastructure (ADB 2014) but may also disrupt public services in urban areas due to congestion.

According to Manasan (1999), the root cause of the shortage on basic public services in large cities may be pinned on the inability of the government to fund the delivery of these services, which she referred to as fiscal gaps. Closing these gaps means more money flowing in the government.

However, because of continuous population growth and massive migration to larger cities, the demand for public services in urban areas increases. This causes the linkage between rural-to-urban shift, poor public services, and poverty more intrinsically connected and, thus, more difficult to address.

Since the late 1970s, a paper published by the University of the Philippines School of Economics has attributed the rural-to-urban shift to socioeconomic development factors in both rural and urban areas rather than to demographic pressures experienced in rural areas (Pernia 1977). This suggests that rural development alone may not be the cure for urbanization. Rural development, based on

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Asia-Pacific Social Protection Week 2016**
ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines
1–5 August 2016

This regional conference will feature recent issues affecting social protection in developing economies and showcase successful stories from countries with advanced social protection systems.

**ADB Transport Forum 2016**
ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines
12–16 September 2016

The ADB Transport Forum will assemble the leading minds in transport and international development for a series of high-level policy debates, deep-dive technical sessions, and thought-provoking talks and presentations.
The need for a staunch regional development policy is, therefore, highlighted to reroute population flows to areas outside the metropolitan (Pernia 1977).

A more recent PIDS discussion paper that scrutinized urbanization challenges through the infrastructure lens, likewise, asserted that managing urban growth needs advance planning using national physical plans that actively target the removal of slums and urban renewal, among others (Navarro 2014).

On her study, Navarro (2014) pointed out that past urban development planning initiatives focused on housing at the expense of other types of physical infrastructure. She also noticed that the respective urban development plans of local government units are not only fragmented but they also lack complementarity.

In the early 1990s, at the height of urbanization in Metro Manila, Gultiano and Flieger (1993) applied a multidisciplinary lens in understanding the opportunities for development and the potential pitfalls of urbanization, particularly in the relationship between urban places and urban people. Studies that dealt with demographic, theoretical, and sociological standpoints on urbanization, like that of Gultiano and Flieger’s, are available on the SERP-P website.

Among others, the SERP-P database showcases studies that attempt to explore the patterns in the rural-urban continuum (Quisumbing and McNiven 2006), track the early linkage between food and urbanization (Herrin et al. 1985), document urban growth management in cities outside Metro Manila (Villanueva and Cuenca 2004), understand spatial and urban issues and perspectives (Pernia and Paderanga 1980), and present a comparative analysis between Asian urbanization and development (Pernia 1981).
The conference will center on macro-financial linkages that explain the interactions between the financial sector and the domestic economy: (1) how financial sector variables, such as asset prices, affect the real economy or (2) how real sector variables, such as economic growth and income, can impact the financial sector.

Graduate Scholarship for Southeast Asians
SEARCA invites applications for its graduate scholarship (MS and PhD) in agriculture and related fields for Academic Year 2017–2018.

Deadline of Application: 30 September 2016

Legislative Information System (LEGIS)
House of Representatives
LEGIS is a browser-based system that allows a user connected to the Internet to access, retrieve, print, or save structured bills information and status as well as download full texts of bills, republic acts, House Journals, House publications, and other published legislative materials and documents.

The banner photo used for this issue shows an informal settler community in Pasig City. Photo by Gizelle Manuel

For more urbanization-related studies, simply type “urbanization” or “migration” in the search box of the SERP-P website.

2016 BSP International Research Conference
Revisiting macro-financial linkages: Looking back and looking ahead
Manila, Philippines
20–21 September 2016

The conference will center on macro-financial linkages that explain the interactions between the financial sector and the domestic economy: (1) how financial sector variables, such as asset prices, affect the real economy or (2) how real sector variables, such as economic growth and income, can impact the financial sector.

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27th NATIONAL STATISTICS MONTH
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"Sustainable Development: Making Statistics Count"

13th NATIONAL CONVENTION ON STATISTICS
"Sustainable Development: Making Statistics Count"
October 3-4, 2016
Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City

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:

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Tel.: 877-4022

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities at PIDS

- Division Chief III (Publication and Circulation Division)
- Division Chief II (Research Dissemination and Public Affairs Division)
- Administrative Officer IV (Human Resource Management Officer II)
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- Administrative Officer IV (Financial Analyst II)
- Research Analyst II

PIDS invites web developers and programmers to submit quotation for the redesign of the PIDS website.