



SERP-P NEWS

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Socioeconomic Issue on Spotlight INFLATION

Inflation refers to the rate at which the prices of commodities rise over a specific period of time. When this rate goes up, the value of the Philippine peso goes down as Filipinos can no longer purchase commodities as much as they previously could with the same amount of money.

According to **Caparas (2002)**, inflation has two major types. The

first one is the demand-pull inflation, or when the consumers demand more goods and services than available. The other one is the cost-push inflation, which results from the rise in the cost of inputs in the production process.

In 2017 alone, the **Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (2017)** noted a 3.2-percent inflation rate, the highest since 2015. This figure is almost twice the 2016 rate, which settled at 1.8 percent. Still, it fell well within the 2- to 4-percent target of the government for 2017, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

According to **Reyes (1996)**, inflation can be influenced by several factors. First, it can rise as a result of the oversupply of money, or when the national bank prints money beyond demand. Disturbances in the prices of basic commodities, such as rice, can also affect the general prices of goods.

Aside from these factors, market responses to economic uncertainties can also cause the inflation to rise. For instance, the proposed increase in oil prices in 1995 induced traders and retailers to stock up on basic commodities, thereby driving their prices up due to artificial shortages.

Sadly, **Reyes (1996)** claimed that inflation affects mostly the poor. According to the 2015 Family Income and Expenditure Survey, for instance, the poorest Filipinos spend at least 60 percent of their earnings on food, whose prices usually increase faster than other commodities except oil. Meanwhile, the nonpoor may even benefit from such increase in prices of commodities as it may lead to their income gains, according to **Son (2008)**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

7th BSP International Research Conference

24-25 September 2018
Quezon City, Philippines

The *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* is organizing the 7th BSP International Research Conference on “Expanding the boundaries of central banking in an environment of globalized finance”.

Further information about the conference will be posted on the BSP website at <http://www.bsp.gov.ph>.

3rd International Congress on Action Research, Action Learning (ARAL)

24-26 May 2018
De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines

ARAL will serve as a venue for the sharing of best practices among professionals in order to contribute significantly to the improvement of the quality of life in the ASEAN region. This congress will focus on action researches that have been conducted at different levels in both public and private organizations. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/aral2018>

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MEMBER-INSTITUTION ON SPOTLIGHT

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)



The *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP) is the central bank of the Republic of the Philippines. It was established on July 3, 1993 pursuant to

the provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and the New Central Bank Act of 1993. It has since then functioned as the country's central monetary authority that enjoys fiscal and administrative autonomy from the national government.

Under the New Central Bank Act, the BSP performs functions such as liquidity management, currency issue, lender of last resort, financial supervision, management

of foreign currency reserves, and determination of exchange rate policy. It also acts as the banker, financial advisor, and official depository of the government, its political subdivisions and instrumentalities, and government-owned and -controlled corporations.

Currently, the BSP provides policy directions in the areas of money, banking, and credit. It supervises operations of banks and exercises regulatory powers over nonbank financial institutions with quasi-banking functions.

Know more about BSP [here](#). Click [here](#) to access BSP materials in the SERP-P database.



SERP-P FEATURED RESEARCHER

Michael A. Alba

Dr. Michael A. Alba is the eleventh president of the Far Eastern University. Previously, he was the dean of the College of Business and Economics of the De La Salle University (DLSU) from 2001 to 2006 and an assistant professor and associate professor in economics at the University of the Philippines (UP) and DLSU, respectively, for 10 years. He also became an exchange professor at Waseda University in May 1999.



Outside the academe, Dr. Alba also became a member of the Technical Committee for Economics of the Commission on Higher Education. He also served as president, vice president, and member of the board of directors of the Philippine Economic Society. He has also been a consultant of various international organization, such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the United States Agency for

International Development in the fields of education and economics.

As a researcher, he has conducted studies on household consumption and economic growth, overseas workers' remittances, gender and inter-industry wage differentials, and hospital cost functions.

Dr. Alba obtained his Ph.D. in Applied Economics from Stanford University, M.A. in Economics from UP, and AB in Economics from Ateneo de Manila University.

Check out his publications below.

- [Estimating Modes of Labor Force Participation in the Philippines](#)
- [Motives and Giving Norms Behind Remittances: The Case of Filipino Overseas Workers and Their Recipient Households](#)
- [Douglass North, Killing Us Softly with His Song](#)
- [Exploring Household Saving and Consumption-Smoothing in the Philippines](#)
- [Why has the Philippines Remained a Poor Country? Some Perspectives from Growth Economics](#)
- [Household Vulnerability to Employment Shocks, 1997-1998](#)

For other publications by Dr. Alba, simply type "Alba" in the search box of the SERP-P website.

The Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines has a collection of studies on inflation such as unemployment and inflation in the Philippines (**Furuoka 2008**), forecasting the volatility of Philippine inflation using GARCH Models (**Ramon 2008**), output gap and its role in inflation-targeting in the Philippines (**Yap 2003**), and college fee structure and Philippine inflation (**Tan 2003**).

SERP-P Resources on Inflation

- BSP Inflation Report
- An Estimated (Closed Economy) Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium Model for the Philippines: Are There Credibility Gains from Committing to an Inflation Targeting Rule?
- Unemployment and Inflation in the Philippines: New Evidence from Vector Error Correction Model
- Forecasting the Volatility of Philippine Inflation Using GARCH Models

- The Bangko Sentral's structural long-term inflation forecasting model for the Philippines
- An Assessment of the Usefulness of Money for Policy in the Philippines
- Inflation and Economic Growth in the Philippines
- The Political Economy of External Indebtedness: A Case Study of the Philippines
- Central Banking in the Philippines: Then, Now and the Future
- The Output Gap and Its Role in Inflation-Targeting in the Philippines
- Living with Inflation
- What Inflation is About?
- Inflation in a Low-Income Country: Tests Based on the Quantity Theory of Money
- The New Structuralist Critique of the Monetarist Theory of Inflation: The Case of the Philippines

For more related studies, simply type “**Inflation**” in the search box of the SERP-P website.

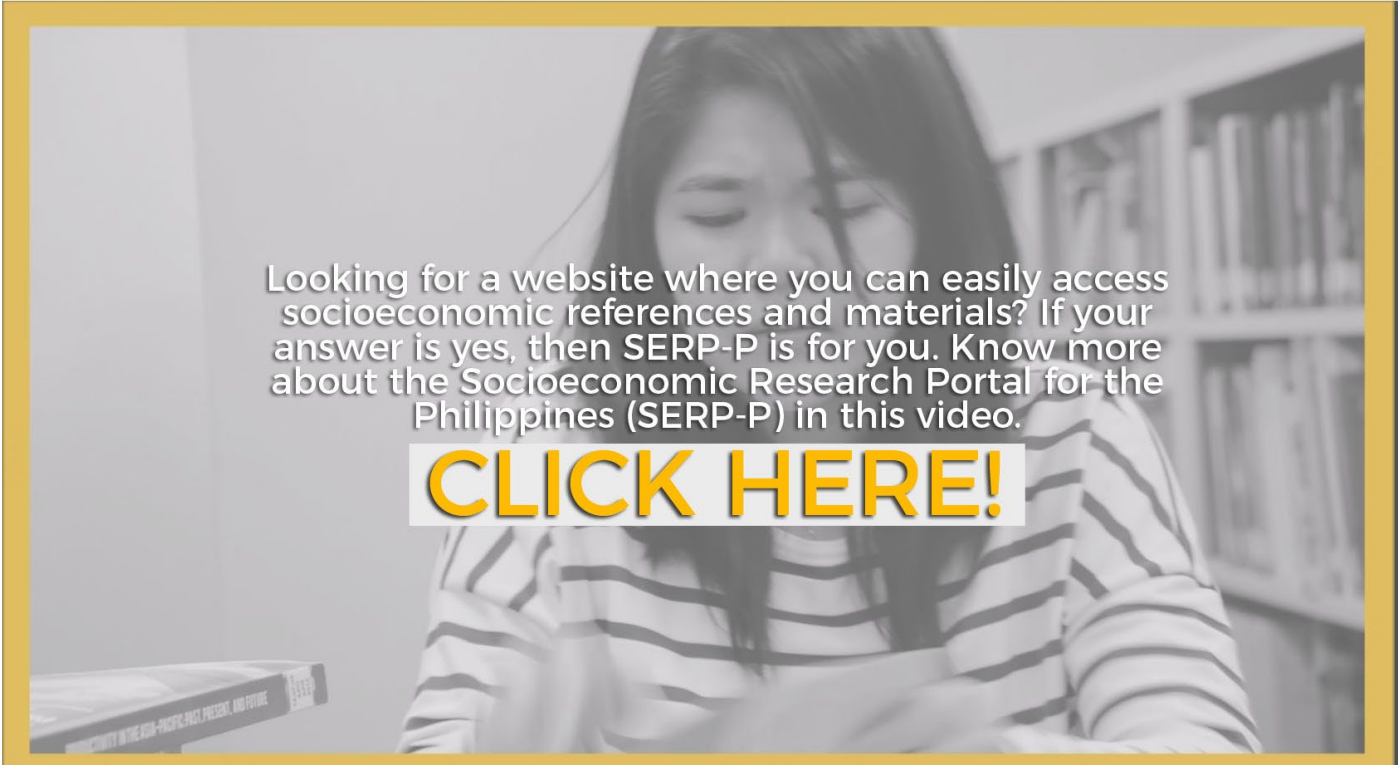
The Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) Project of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) has recently launched its first promotional video on the PIDS social media pages. With the said launch, SERP-P (<https://serp-p.pids.gov.ph/>) has gained more page visits and publication downloads. To date, SERP-P has 5,949 publications in its database and an average of 2,023 visits per day in 2017. (Note: access statistics generated using Webalizer)

You may access the video here:

Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/serppFB>

Youtube: <https://tinyurl.com/serppYT>

Download the file here: <https://tinyurl.com/serppDriveview?usp=sharing>



Looking for a website where you can easily access socioeconomic references and materials? If your answer is yes, then SERP-P is for you. Know more about the Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) in this video.

CLICK HERE!

LATEST SERP-P RESOURCES

- Administrative Legislation in the Philippine Contractors' Industry
- Regulatory Challenges in the Philippine Logistics Industry
- Philippine Journal of Development 2016, No. 2
- The TPP Agreement and Government Procurement: Opportunities and Issues for the Philippines
- The Philippines' Readiness for the TPP: Focus on Investor-State Dispute Settlement
- Legal and Policy Implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement: Focus on Intellectual Property
- Economic Impact of Typhoon Ondoy in Pasig and Marikina Cities Using a Multiweek CGE Model Analysis
- Climate-smart agriculture: Do young people care?
- Logistics Systems in the Supply Chain of Agricultural Products in Indonesia
- The Role of Universities in Agriculture and Rural Development: The Case of Thailand
- Plant Breeding for a Productive, Sustainable, and Resilient Agribiosystem
- Assessing Sustainable Nutrition Security: The Role of Food Systems
- Perennialization of Upland Agriculture
- The Never-ending Challenge of Managing Water Resources: Focus on a Half Century of Experience in Asia
- A Rising Tide Does Not Lift All Boats: Transformative Approaches for Strengthening Resilience and Equity
- The Role of MFIs in Strengthening the Agriculture Sector in Preparation for the 2015 ASEAN Integration
- The Need for Pro-smallholder Policy in Malaysia
- Attracting the Youth to Agriculture
- Enhancing ASEAN Connectivity: The ASEAN RO-RO
- Integrating Ecosystem Services into Development Planning: A New Paradigm in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation



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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Dioscoro L. Umali Achievement Award in Agricultural Development

The award recognizes exemplary individuals in Southeast Asia who have contributed to the advancement of agricultural development in the region. It covers achievements along the full range of fields that contribute to agricultural development including plant and animal sciences, land and water management, environment and natural resource management, technology development, social organization, food security, poverty reduction, economics and business, and policy and governance, among others.

Deadline for nominations is on 30 April 2018. Click [here](#) for more details.

2018 High-Level Policy Dialogue on Meeting the 2030 Global Agenda Pledge to Leave No One Behind in the Philippines

April 20, 2018
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM
18th Floor, Three Cyberpod Centris-North Tower, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

This policy consultation, which is jointly organized by the United Nations Development Programme - Philippines and the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, will bring together a small group of researchers, government officials, development partners, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders to present and discuss challenges and opportunities in eradicating poverty and ensuring no one is left behind.

Note: This is not open to the public. Nevertheless, it will be streamed live on the PIDS Facebook page (facebook.com/PIDS.PH/).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities at **PIDS**

- **One (1) Research Analyst II for the PIDS In-house Project titled "Estimation of the Philippine Macroeconometric Model"**

Career opportunities at **NEDA**

Career opportunities for **economists**

SERP-P Team at PIDS:
Sheila V. Siar, Project Manager
Jachin Jane O. Aberilla, SERP-P Coordinator
Celia M. Reyes and Aniceto Orbeta Jr., Technical Advisers



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

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