



SERP-P NEWS

Innovating Knowledge Exchange in Policy Research

September 2015 | Vol. 3 No. 3

Socioeconomic Issue on Spotlight **TOURISM**

From clear blue seas to historic monuments and landmarks, the Philippines is widely recognized as a premier tourist destination. The country possesses a rich biodiversity that boosts its tourism sector, which, in turn, helps shape employment, the business climate, and governance.

According to the Department of Tourism, Philippine tourism

grew by 3.08 percent in the first seven months of 2015. This was derived from the 3.11 million visitors that contributed a total earnings of PHP 130.22 billion for the tourism sector. Korea and the United States continue to provide the biggest visitor earnings for the country—with PHP 5.520 billion and PHP 4.176 billion, respectively.

Moreover, according to a study conducted by the World Travel and Tourism Council, the travel and tourism industry in the Philippines contributed 11.3 percent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and generated 4.3 million jobs in 2013. Based on these

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SERP-P, MinDA strengthen partnership, conduct database management orientation

Twenty-eight representatives from 18 higher education institutions (HEIs) in Mindanao participated in the Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) Orientation on Database Management on September 3, 2015, in Davao City. These HEIs are network members of the Mindanao Knowledge Center (MKC), a flagship program of the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA).

In his opening message, Mr. Reyzaldy Tan, Director for Policy, Planning, and Project Development of MinDA, stressed the importance of the partnership between SERP-P and MinDA to develop the MKC portal as the "leading resource of policy researches and experts on Mindanao

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

26th National Statistics Month
*"Pagyamanin at Gamitin ang
Estadistika, Kalusugan para sa Lahat
ay Abot-Kamay na"*
October 2015

10th Housing Fair
*"Disenteng Pabahay,
Maunlad na Buhay"*
16–18 October 2015
Megatrade Hall 1, Fifth Level,
SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City

**Keynote speech of Secretary
Balisacan during the PIDS
2015 Inaugural Public Policy
Conference**
*"Harnessing Institutions and Human
Capital for Inclusive Growth"*
PIDS Inaugural Public Policy
Conference

**1st Grand Alumni
Homecoming**
Palawan State University
17 December 2015



Dr. Sheila V. Siar (center), program manager of the SERP-P Project, leads the discussion on knowledge commons and open access revolution. Photo by MVP Aranas

SERP-P, MinDA strengthen... continued from page 1

and to share research studies among academic institutions, government agencies, and international organizations.” He added that MKC can serve as a platform to lobby new policies and prevent overlap in research. Moreover, Tan emphasized that MKC may provide creative means to do research through collaboration and networking with other institutions (public and private, local and international) that have enough resources.

Dr. Sheila Siar and Mark Vincent Aranas, program manager and coordinator of **SERP-P**, respectively, then talked about the program and how it can serve as a model for MinDA’s MKC.

In her presentation, Siar gave a quick overview of the concepts of knowledge commons and open access revolution. “Knowledge as a commons should be shared and be easily accessible, but it should also be protected,” said Siar. She added that without proper management, knowledge can be misused.

Siar then discussed the history of SERP-P as the first electronic repository of policy research and information in the Philippines that capitalizes on research networking. The SERP-P project was started by state think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) in year 2000. It was formally launched in 2002 during the Institute’s 25th founding anniversary. The establishment of the portal in the 2000s reflects the beginning of the “open

access movement”, a worldwide campaign initiated by the Open Society Institute that advocates for open access to research literature, Siar related.

Through SERP-P, Siar said that PIDS fulfills its mandate to promote evidence-based policymaking by making the results of its research studies and those conducted by other agencies and institutions accessible not only to decisionmakers but also to the general public. She noted that SERP-P can be a tool for its member-institutions, such as MinDA, to widen their reach.

SERP-P is the first electronic repository of policy research and information in the Philippines that capitalizes on research networking.

The orientation also involved showcasing the developments on SERP-P over the last 13 years. According to Aranas, the portal has grown from a simple database for PIDS materials to an established knowledge exchange mechanism of 53 member-institutions. “SERP-P now has over 5,500 research materials from more than 2,800 authors,” added Aranas.

Because SERP-P will serve as a model for MinDA’s MKC portal, Aranas also demonstrated among the staff and research partners of MinDA its content management system (CMS). According to Aranas, the CMS was designed to give access to its member-institutions to share their own materials through SERP-P.

The SERP-P CMS gained positive response from the participants. According to Dr. Alexander Campaner,

MinDA's consultant for the MKC portal, MKC will serve as the SERP-P in Mindanao. He also shared possible innovations that MKC will provide, such as the profiling of local government units in Mindanao through the extension activities of its member HEIs. Through this mechanism, Campaner said that gaps in Mindanao-related researches, particularly in agricultural development, can be addressed. "We have to identify the gaps in terms of research. Collaborative work is the key," he added.

During the open forum, Undersecretary Janet Lopez, executive director of MinDA, underscored that to prepare Mindanao for the ASEAN Economic Community, it needs to increase its competitiveness. "One way to do it is through research and development. Our engagement with the PIDS [through SERP-P] is one of the many things that we can do to improve our knowledge economy," she explained.

The database management orientation, which was jointly organized by PIDS and MinDA, was participated by the following HEIs: Agusan del Sur College of Agriculture and Technology, Ateneo de Davao University, Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Bukidnon State University, Caraga State University, Central Mindanao University, Cotabato City State Polytechnic College, Davao del Norte State College, Jose Rizal Memorial State University, Southern Philippines Agri-business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology, Sultan Kudarat State University, Surigao State University, University of Mindanao, University of the Philippines-Mindanao, University of Southeastern Philippines, University of Southern Mindanao, Western Mindanao State University, and Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology.

It also served as a prologue to the **1st Mindanao Policy Research Forum** on September 4 at the Waterfront Insular Davao. This whole-day event, which centered on the theme "Advancing Mindanao: Toward Sustainable Economic Development and Balanced Ecosystems", gathered close to 100 participants from various public and private sectors in Mindanao, including government, business, civil society, and the media. The forum featured the signing of the memorandum of understanding that formalized the institutional partnership of MinDA and PIDS in the conduct of policy research and knowledge-sharing activities in support of Mindanao's development needs.

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Dr. Alexander Campaner, MinDA's consultant, introduces new developments in the MKC portal. Photo by MVPAranas

SEARCHA Photo Contest

Theme: *From Farm to Plate: Smallholders' Participation in Inclusive Value Chains*

Deadline of submission: 30 November 2015

#Volunteerism4Dev Nationwide Photo Contest

Capture the "Spirit of Bayanihan"

Deadline of submission: 30 October 2015

SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER GRANTS

Call for Proposals for Individual Research Grants East Asian Development Network

The East Asian Development Network (EADN), a network of research institutions in developing countries of East Asia, invites research organizations and independent researchers to submit proposals for the EADN Individual Research Grants. This program aims to strengthen the capacity of institutions and young, independent researchers in East Asia to undertake high quality, development-focused, and policy-relevant research in the social sciences. Dr. Gilberto Llanto, President of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), serves as the Regional Coordinator of EADN.

The grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Proposals will be accepted at any time until **12 October 2015**. Awards will be announced in December 2015.

For inquiries, contact the EADN Secretariat through the following:
Phone: +632 810 6261
Fax: +632 816 1091
Email: gllanto@mail.pids.gov.ph;
mrosellon@mail.pids.ph; csalina@mail.pids.gov.ph

SEARCHA Graduate Scholarship for Southeast Asians

The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCHA) invites applications for its graduate scholarship (MS and PhD) in agriculture and related fields for Academic Year 2016-2017.

Inquiries can also be directed to:
Graduate Education and Institutional

A press conference was also held to mark the celebration of the 13th **Development Policy Research Month (DPRM)**, which is celebrated across the country every September to promote public awareness and consciousness of the importance of policy research in nation building. It was followed by a plenary session wherein research studies on ecotourism and payment for ecosystem services were presented by researchers from PIDS and HEIs in Mindanao, respectively. ■

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figures, the same report ranked the Philippines 36th and 9th out of 184 countries in terms of travel and tourism contribution to GDP and employment, respectively.

While its diverse natural landscapes and cultural heritage sites generate significant contribution to GDP and to coastal and rural communities, the tourism sector faces a number of challenges that hamper further developments and hinder the realization of its full potentials. According to Ramon Benedicto Alampay, in a book published by the Philippine APEC Study Center Network and the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), the tourism industry is built upon fragile natural and cultural environments. He adds that in this scenario, “the most inconsequential and innocent of human gestures can easily wreak havoc on the site’s resources.”

Tourism development, when poorly planned and implemented, has negative environment and social costs. Based on the Philippine National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) 2011–2016, the following are the challenges that the industry is facing, among others: (1) weak tourism development capacities of local government units (LGUs); (2) overlapping institutional regulatory functions between the national government and LGUs; (3) inadequate airport, sea port, and road infrastructures; (4) insufficient tourist facilities and services; (5) highly concentrated pattern of tourism with limited local community involvement; and (6) the perception that the Philippines is an unsafe destination.

To address this, the NTDP highlighted a three-pronged strategic direction that includes: (1) improving market access and connectivity, (2) developing and marketing competitive destinations and products, and (3) strengthening institutional governance and human resource capacities. Likewise, the NTDP underscored the importance of inclusiveness (i.e., it should involve women, youth, and indigenous people) and the pro-poor agenda (i.e., it should promote poverty reduction by including poor provinces in the tourism value chain) in every tourism development plan.

Other areas in tourism—as highlighted in the PIDS Discussion Papers of Picazo (2015) and Picazo et al. (2015)—that can be tapped include green tourism (ecotourism, adventure tourism, agro-tourism), gold tourism (ethnic tourism, cultural, and historical tourism), medical and health tourism, and people-to-people tourism that involves “cross-border movement of an ASEAN citizen from one ASEAN country to another for education, research, and other valid reasons” (Picazo et al. 2015, p. 9). ■

SERP-P Resources on Tourism

- [Sustainable Tourism: Challenges for the Philippines](#)
- [Green and Gold: Promoting Eco-Adventure and Cultural Tourism for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth](#)
- [People-to-People Tourism in APEC: Facilitating Cross-border Entry and Exit, with Special Focus on ASEAN](#)
- [Medical Tourism in the Philippines: Market Profile, Benchmarking Exercise, and S.W.O.T. Analysis](#)
- [The Future Looks Bright for Health Tourism](#)
- [Health-enhancing Holidays: Challenges in Expanding Medical Tourism in the Philippines](#)
- [Challenges in Health Services Trade: Philippine Case](#)
- [The Economic and Social Impact of Tourism](#)
- [Marine Protected Area-Based Tourism in Dauin, Negros Oriental, Philippines](#)
- [Assessment of the Biophysical Conditions of Caves Promoted for Ecotourism in Mabinay, Negros Oriental, Philippines](#)
- [The Perceived Impacts of Tourism in Indigeous Communities: A Case Study of Sagada, Mt. Province](#)
- [Philippines - Environment Monitor 2003, Vol. 1 of 1](#)
- [Towards Sustainable Tourism Development in the Philippines and Practices of National Tourism Organizations](#)
- [Costested Space: Tourism Power and Social Relations in Mactan and Panglao Islands](#)
- [Developing the Japanese Market for Philippine Tourism and Retirement Services: Prospects and Impediments](#)

For more tourism-related studies, simply type **'tourism'** in the Search box of the SERP-P website.

LATEST SERP-P RESOURCES

- More than Infrastructure and Equipment: Process Evaluation of the Health Facilities Enhancement Program
- An Assessment of the Community Mortgage Programs of the Social Housing Finance Corporation
- Property Damage Recovery and Coping Behavior of Households Affected by an Extreme Flood Event in Marikina City, Metro Manila, Philippines
- Economic Policy Monitor 2014: Effective Regulations for Sustainable Growth
- The Relationship between Stock Return Volatility and Trading Volume: The Case of the Philippines
- Executive Pay and Firm Performance in the Philippines
- General Asymmetric Stochastic Volatility Models Using Range Data: Estimation and Empirical Evidence from Emerging Equity Markets
- Regulating Political Dynasties toward a More Inclusive Society
- Bottom-up Budgeting: People's Participation at Work
- Why We Should Pay Attention to the Middle Class
- Industrial Policies and Implementation: Philippine Automotive Manufacturing as a Lens
- Prospects of stronger economic cooperation between the ASEAN and India: Implications for the Philippines
- BSP Annual Report for the Layman
- BSP Report on Regional Economic Developments



FROM FARM TO PLATE: Smallholders' Participation in Inclusive Value Chains



SERP-P Team at PIDS:

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AKI-CBMS Call for Papers on Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship and Providing Social Protection in the Informal Sector

Deadline of complete and final paper: 31 December 2015

British Library for Development Studies (BLDS)

BLDS houses Europe's most comprehensive print collection of research on development issues, offering an unparalleled range and depth of coverage. Visit their website [here](#).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Division Chief III (Publications)
Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)

Deadline of application:
15 October 2015

Contact Ms. Gil Remorin at
gremorin@mail.pids.gov.ph

Career opportunities at **NEDA**
Career opportunities at **SEARCA**

DPRM CELEBRATION

For more information about the celebration of the **13th DEVELOPMENT POLICY RESEARCH MONTH** this September, visit the DPRM website.



PHOTO CREDIT: The banner photo features Coron, Palawan — one of the most visited tourist destinations in the Philippines. *Photo by MVPAranas*

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

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