



SERP-P members reconnect, discuss updates and ways to move forward in third biennial meeting



Representatives of the SERP-P member-institutions with the SERP-P team and PIDS president, Dr. Gilbert Llanto, during the third biennial meeting in December 2014.

“To strengthen partnership and collaboration in promoting knowledge sharing” has been the central theme of the recently concluded SocioEconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) third biennial members’ meeting. Fifty-one participants representing 32 member-institutions from various parts of the Philippines gathered on December 10 at the C.P. Romulo Hall, NEDA sa Makati Building, Makati City.

The biennial meeting is organized for the member-institutions to jointly assess the SERP-P network’s performance, identify strategies to address issues, and devise approaches for the way forward.

The meeting started with a presentation of the progress of SERP-P since the second meeting two years ago. Dr. Sheila Siar, project manager of SERP-P, took note of the growth of the portal and expansion of the network’s membership but also highlighted the challenges in sustaining the project. “Out of 53 member-institutions, only a third of the SERP-P membership is active or regularly contributing materials to the portal,” she reported. She added that a number of member-institutions have not yet signed the SERP-P memorandum of agreement (MOA) despite regular follow-up.

Announcements

PinoyMe Foundation Inc. Internship | 2015



The PinoyME Foundation is a social investment banker for microfinance institutions (MFIs) in the Philippines. It was started by former President Corazon Aquino in 2006 with the intention of growing microfinance and microentrepreneurship in the Philippines. PinoyME aims to help the entrepreneurial poor link up to mainstream markets and achieve economic self-sufficiency through productive and sustainable enterprise.

Job description may include:

- Plan, design and manage research projects.
- Conduct research and draft project proposals.
- Analyze and organize information and data.
- Report writing and presentation.
- Undertake other duties as may be reasonably required from time-to-time.

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214 for queries and other
concerns

Send your updated CV to
ethel.acorda@pinoyme.com

Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship 2015 Opening

This and other issues were discussed by the participants through a workshop in the afternoon. They brainstormed on possible solutions and strategies to address participation issues. During the workshop, there was a general feeling that SERP-P is beneficial in forging partnerships with other member-institutions and promoting collaborative networking and information sharing. In terms of ways to encourage active participation among the members, particularly in contributing materials to the portal, majority of the participants recommended constructive strategies such as output-based ranking at the end of the year and incentivizing top performers through nonmonetary rewards (e.g., certificate of appreciation) rather than penalizing inactive members.

Part of the meeting was also the launching of the redesigned SERP-P website and content management system (CMS) presented by Ms. Kristine Carla Oteyza and Mr. Ronald Yacat, SERP-P coordinator and technical consultant, respectively. Both the website and the CMS were updated to provide users with a more user-friendly interface and functions. Member-institutions can now post events and announcements in the SERP-P website using the new CMS. Materials contained in the database have been categorized into research themes and year of publication making it easier for the users to search for materials.

The involvement of SERP-P in the “OKHub” project, otherwise known as the Global Open Knowledge Hub, was also discussed in the meeting through a recorded presentation by Mr. Simon Colmer, information project officer of the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, the project proponent. The OKHub (<http://okhub.org/>) is a new portal that supports knowledge producers and consumers, particularly those in the Global South, by increasing the availability of research from developing countries through an open-access platform. At present, among the materials in the SERP-P database, only the publications of PIDS are included in the OKHub. This is because the current MOA on the SERP-P does not cover the OKHub yet. When the MOA was made a requirement for formal SERP-P membership two years ago, the OKHub was non-existent. To contribute materials to the OKHub, a SERP-P member would just need to inform the SERP-P team. There is also a plan to incorporate the OKHub in the SERP-P MOA.

Meanwhile, Mr. Novel Bangsal, Director at the Congressional Policy, and Budget Research Department (CPBRD) of the House of Representatives (HOR), gave a presentation of the Electronic Resource Base for Legislation (ERBL) project, a joint initiative of PIDS and CPBRD-HOR, which is also a SERP-P member. The ERBL is a database of key legislative bills being considered in the House of Representatives. It contains a facility that displays research materials, including resources in the SERP-P, which can be used in the discussion and deliberation of a particular bill.

The meeting ended on a high note with members showing renewed appreciation of the SERP-P project and network. Jointly, they have agreed that as SERP-P's reach expands beyond the Philippines and as it evolves into a more advanced knowledge repository, the cooperation of everyone is needed to keep the momentum going. SERP-P, after all, is a project whose



The Australian Government Department of Education and Training and the Australian APEC Study Centre is pleased to announce the launch of the “Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship”. This exciting new initiative will support high-achieving female researchers from developing APEC economies to further their research work in Australia.

The “Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship” will offer up to 10 fellowships per year for female post-graduate researchers to work in partnership with an Australian education institution to undertake a research project. This exciting opportunity is open to citizens and permanent residents from Chile, People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Thailand or Vietnam.

The Australian APEC Study Centre will be running the fellowship and has announced that applications are now open for 2015. The Centre welcomes applications for research projects varying between 1 and 4 months in duration. A maximum of AUD 23,300 is available for each fellowship. Please note that applications will close 3 April 2015.

More information can be found at <http://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-education/academic-colleges/college-of-business/industry/australian-apec-study-centre/projects/australia---apec-women-in-research-fellowship/>

sustainability and further development depends on the members' continued support and active involvement.

SocioEconomic Issue on Spotlight0074

Regional Integration



Regional integration is commonly regarded as a process by which two or more nation-states agree to co-operate and work closely together to achieve peace, stability, and wealth. The integration is made possible by one or more written agreements that carefully outline the areas of cooperation.

Over the last several decades, Asia has become increasingly integrated as a region. In effect, rapid macroeconomic development has been observed, driven by intra-regional trade and freer movement of people and capital across national borders.

In the case of Southeast Asia, regional integration efforts were focused on intra-regional trade. To achieve this, various measures and adjustments were done to remove barriers to free trade and encourage freer movement of people, goods, labor, and capital within the region. Majority of these efforts were initiated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

2015 marks a monumental year for the ASEAN given its target of a "single market" through the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) blueprint. Additionally, there is also the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) that facilitates further economic integration. The 21 member-economies of APEC targets a freer flow of resources across the APEC region through more efficient customs procedures, more favorable business climates, and harmonization of regulations and standards.

Now that the first quarter of 2015 is almost over, what is the current status of integration in the region? How is it changing the dynamics within the region? What are the challenges and opportunities, particularly for the Philippines, of the AEC? Find out the answers from studies contributed by the SERP-P member-institutions.

- [Supporting WTO and Pathways to the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific \(FTAAP\)](#)
- [Philippine Priorities in Expanding APEC-Wide Connectivity through Infrastructure Development](#)
- [The ASEAN Economic Community](#)
- [Regional Public Goods in the Blue Economy: Lessons from 14 Cases of International Cooperation](#)

The fellowship has also been included in an online APEC Education Portal that was launched earlier this week. The portal can be accessed at <http://education.apec.org/>

We would be most grateful if you could circulate this information throughout your networks with a particular emphasis on networks and researchers who may wish partner with an Australian University for a short term research project.

AIM Policy Center
Understanding 21st Century China:
All Under Heaven?
Forum | 2 April 2014

China has experienced remarkable changes since economic reforms were implemented in the 1980s. Since then, China's poverty rate has declined from 53 percent in 1981 to around 8 percent in 2001. China has become the second largest economy in the world. For the past years, it has fostered closer economic ties with countries in Africa (which received considerable amounts of Chinese foreign direct investments) and in the Asia-Pacific region (where China serves as a final product assembly hub of the regional production chain), thereby emerging as an important player in regional affairs. However, China is currently facing an array of challenges that include the need to further reduce poverty and address rising inequality and problems associated with rapid urbanization and environmental sustainability.

In this regard, the AIM Policy Center, Management Association of the Philippines, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, former senior government officials, the Asia Society, Harvard Kennedy School Alumni Association of the Philippines, Tufts

- [Key Reforms for an Effective Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership](#)
- [Enhancing the Protection and Promotion of Migrant Workers` Rights in ASEAN](#)
- [Achieving the ASEAN Economic Community 2015: Challenges for the Philippines](#)
- [PJEPA: Strengthening the Foundation for Regional Cooperation and Economic Integration, Vol. I](#)
- [Prospects for Regional Cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean Region and the Asia and Pacific Region: Perspective from East Asia](#)
- [Preferential Trading Agreements and Agricultural Liberalization in East and Southeast Asia](#)
- [Economic Integration and Regional Cooperation in East Asia: A Pragmatic View](#)
- [Regional Integration, Inclusive Growth, and Poverty: Enhancing Employment Opportunities for the Poor](#)
- [Regional Economic Integration in East Asia: Progress and Pathways](#)
- [Globalization, Competition, and International Production Networks: Policy Directions for the Philippine Automotive Industry](#)
- [Pursuing the Twin Objectives of Economic Integration and Social Inclusion](#)
- [Economic Policy Monitor 2012: Regional Economic Integration and Inclusive Growth - Engaging Nations, Embracing People](#)
- [The Philippines and East Asia: Building on Partnerships to Take Part in the Region`s Dynamism](#)
- [Education Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific](#)

Fletcher School Alumni Association PH, and Ramos Peace and Development Foundation, Inc. will hold a forum on "Understanding 21st Century China: All Under Heaven?" on April 02, 2014, from 8:30 to 11:30 AM, at Fuller Hall, 3/F Asian Institute of Management. Representatives from the partner institutions, academe, government, business sector, civil society, national security sector, and the media are expected to attend the forum.

The forum will feature discussions with Professor Emeritus Marwyn Samuels of Syracuse University, Dr. Liping Zheng of the Asian Development Bank, and former ABC Beijing Bureau Chief Mr. Chito Sta. Romana.

The event is open to the public. However, seats are limited. To confirm your attendance, please contact Ms. Jean Labios at jlabbios@aim.edu or (02) 892-4011 ext. 5105.

Asian Development Bank Promoting Remittances for Development Finance Forum | 18-19 March 2015

Remittances have become a rising source of foreign exchange and hold immense potential as drivers of economic growth and development for the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) developing member countries (DMCs). Generally, remittances can have positive impacts on the receiving countries. Remittances can reduce the poverty level, and lead to higher education and health expenditures at household level. Remittance can have a positive effect on the country's economic growth. Remittances also tend to be more stable than private capital flows, and may even be countercyclical relative to the recipient country's economy.

SERP-P Member on Spotlight



"Urban planning is an important source of development and a tool for reducing inequality," said UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos during the twenty-third General Assembly of Ministers of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the Philippine context, urban and regional planning plays an important role in aligning the collective vision of both the government and the people making it a critical socioeconomic area.

Thus, the SERP-P network is lucky to have the UP School of Urban and Regional Planning as one of its active members. The UP SURP, headed by its dean, Dr. Mario Delos Reyes, is a graduate school specializing in fields such as urban and regional planning, environmental planning, transportation planning, housing, and estate planning.

The School also actively engages in research, either independently or in cooperation with government and private institutions. It is very active as well


in training and extension work, maintaining a good working relationship with several government inter-agency planning committees. Much of its training and extension work helps improve the quality of planning at the national and local government levels.

This 2015, UP SURP is celebrating its 50th anniversary. As part of the celebration, the School is holding a public lecture series. Dr. Arleya M. Santiago, former dean of the School, kicked off the series with a lecture on "The First Fifty Years of the School of Urban and Regional Planning and its Future Golden Years".

Another lecture is scheduled on March 19, to be given by Dr. Zenaida A. Manalo. Kindly see the invite below for details.

50th Anniversary Lecture Series

*Housing the Urban Poor :
Some Lessons Learned*



Zenaida A. Manalo, PhD, EnP, FPIEP
Professorial Lecturer
UP School of Urban and Regional Planning

6:00 PM onwards
March 19, 2015 (Thursday)
Cariño Multipurpose Hall, 3/F SURP Building
University of the Philippines, Diliman, Q.C.

The lecture highlights selected case studies on the social, economic, institutional and management approaches in assisting informal settlers relocated to resettlement sites. These studies share the good practices and lessons learned; the advocacy gains realized by those providing assistance in the field; and puts forward the problems and challenges development advocates face today and in the near future towards making lasting contributions to the attainment of sustainable and progressive communities.

The case studies draw from the lecturer's planning experience and from being a socialized housing volunteer for a number of years as well as from the comparative empirical research done by some PLAN 239 (Special Problems in Estate Planning) students of UP-SURP, who conducted studies on the same communities over a period of time.

Admission is free. Limited slots only.
Email surp.graduatestudies@gmail.com or call + 632 9262120 for reservations.

To know more about UP SURP and its upcoming activities for its Golden Anniversary, visit <http://surp.ph/> or check the calendar of activities below.

50th Anniversary Public Lecture Series

6:00 PM onwards | CARINO MULTIPURPOSE HALL
School of Urban and Regional Planning
University of the Philippines - Diliman
Please contact (02) 926-2120 or email surp.graduatestudies@gmail.com for info.

January 21, 2015	The First Fifty Years of the School of Urban and Regional Planning and its Future Golden Years	Dr. Asteya M. Santiago
February 18, 2015	Positioning the Environmental Planner in the Light of the ASEAN Integration	Dr. Josefina M. Ramos
March 19, 2015	Housing the Urban Poor: Some Lessons Learned	Dr. Zenaida A. Manalo
April 16, 2015	Myanmar Planning: First-Hand Impressions	Mr. Cesar B. Umali, Jr.
May 20, 2015	Need for and Principle Contents of a National Transport Policy Act	Dr. Primitivo C. Cal
June 18, 2015	Public-Private Partnership in Urban and Regional Planning and Development	Atty. Saviniano M. Perez, Jr.

Remittances can provide capital to micro and small enterprises, promote entrepreneurship, and generate employment opportunities.

The objective of the forum is to enhance ADB DMCS' knowledge on options to increase access to formal remittance channels and remittance-linked investments to leverage remittances for growth and development.

Who will attend

- Government officials;
- Central banks and financial regulators;
- Public and private banks and financial institutions;
- NGOs and micro financial institutions; and
- Donors and development partner institutions

The forum is free of charge. However, interested participants will have to arrange and shoulder the cost of travel and hotel accommodation. To join, please go to the [registration page](#).

ADB Celebrates Gender Month Event | 3 - 31 March



To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action for Women's Empowerment, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will hold a series of gender-related activities beginning March 3 and throughout the month of March. The overall theme for the ADB Gender Month is "Beijing+20: Pushing the

New Acquisitions

- [Promoting Women's Participation in the APEC Economies: Some Recommendations](#)
- [Deepening Regional Cooperation for Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction: A Proposal for Proactive Approach to Risk Financing](#)
- [Building Philippine MSMEs Resilience to Natural Disasters](#)
- [Is Poverty Really Decreasing, and If Not, Why Not?](#)
- [A profile of street noise in Dumaguete City, Philippines, 2008](#)
- [Identifying Sectoral Vulnerabilities and Strengths for the Philippines: A Financial Social Accounting Matrix Approach](#)
- [Challenges in the Economic Participation of Women as Entrepreneurs](#)
- [Inputs for Philippine Hosting of APEC 2015: Food Security](#)
- [Collaboration among an academic Institution, Local communities, and local government units in protecting wildlife and forest habitats in Southwestern Negros Island, Philippines](#)
- [Not an easy way up: a life history of a middle class Filipino family](#)
- [Increasing Economic Opportunities of Women in the APEC](#)
- [Supporting WTO and Pathways to the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific \(FTAAP\)](#)
- [People-to-People Tourism in APEC: Facilitating Cross-Border Entry and Exit, with Special Focus on ASEAN](#)
- [Philippine Priorities in Expanding APEC-Wide Connectivity through Infrastructure Development](#)
- [Supply Chain Connectivity: Enhancing Participation in the Global Supply Chain](#)
- [Establishing the Linkages of Human Resource Development with Inclusive Growth](#)
- [An exploratory Analysis of the speech Act of Apology and its associated Socio-cultural factors](#)
- [Toward and Beyond APEC Summit 2015: Key Issues and Challenges of Professional Service Mobility](#)
- [APEC 2015: Global Value Chains and Services](#)
- [Development Finance and Aid in the Philippines: Policy, Institutional Arrangements and Flows](#)
- [Assessment of the DSWD SEA-K Strategy](#)
- [Filipino women in coastal resource management: the need for social recognition](#)
- [The Economic Benefits of Marine Protected Areas](#)
- [Marine Protected Area-Based Tourism in Dauin, Negros Oriental, Philippines](#)
- [Potential of Climate Change on Marine Mammal Biodiversity of Southeast Asia: A Review](#)

Final Frontiers for Gender Equality?" ADB will celebrate International Women's Day Breakfast Event on March 6 with the theme "Pushing the Final Frontiers for Gender Equality – Women in Leadership".

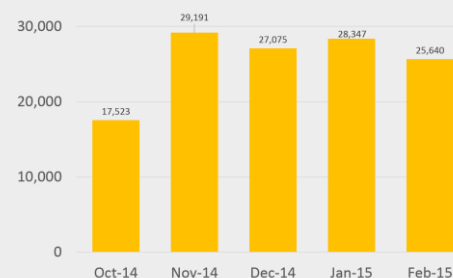
Resource speakers:

Dr. Astrid Tuminez (6 March)
James Lang (20 March)
Rahul Roy (20 March)
Perfecto Uysingco (20 March)
Zainah Anwar (25 March)

View the events schedule [here](#). For further information, kindly visit the [Asian Development Bank Website](#).

SERP-P at a Glance

Monthly Unique Visits October 2014-February 2015

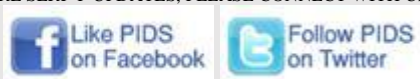


Monthly Statistics As of February 2015

Number of Publications	5420
Number of Institutions	53
Number of Authors	2796

SERP-P Team at PIDS:

Sheila V. Siar, Project Manager; Kristine Carla Oteyza, SERP-P Coordinator; Gilbert Llanto and Aniceto Orbeta, Jr., Technical Advisers; Ronald Yacat, Technical Consultant
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