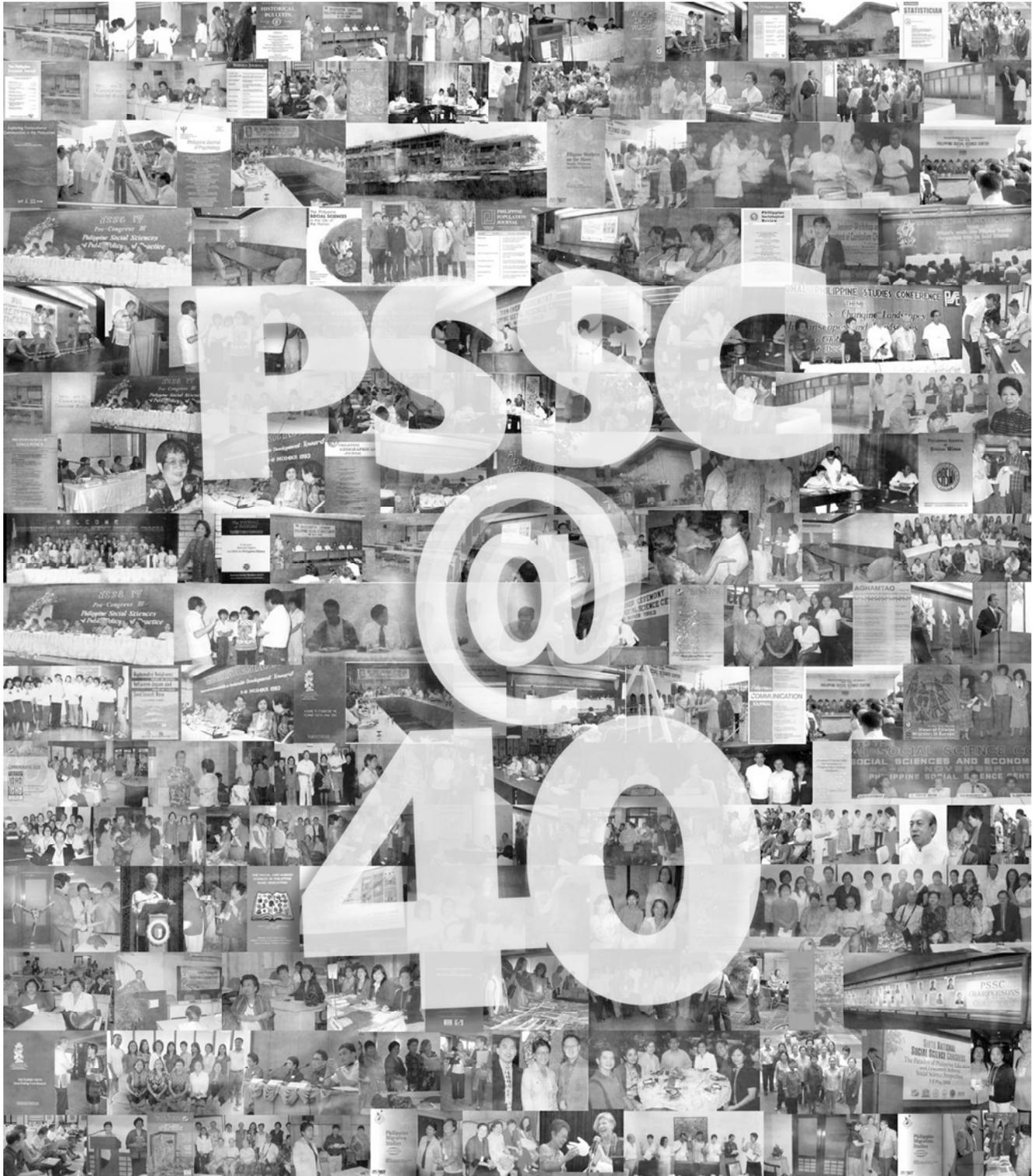




Social Science Information

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THE PSSC SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION

The ***PSSC Social Science Information*** is published twice a year by the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), with offices at PSSCenter, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City; U.P. Post Office Box 205, Diliman Quezon City 1101, Philippines

In line with the mandate of the PSSC Social Science Information seeks to promote the dissemination of social science knowledge and research findings and their use in public policy-making.

The views expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect those of PSSC or the authors' institutions.

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The Philippine Social Science Council at 40 Years

ALLAN B. I. BERNARDO

Chair, Board of Trustees 2008-2010
Philippine Social Science Council

As tempting it may be to proclaim that life begins at 40, this adage actually does not apply to the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC). The 40 years of PSSC has been full of life from the very start.

Indeed, PSSC seems to be a rather good exemplar of a successful person in midlife. It had a bright and hopeful start in its early years, followed by periods of rapid growth and expanding experiences. Similar to periods of adolescence, it also went through a phase when it had to rethink its identity and goals, and had to make key decisions at critical turning points that redefined its distinctive characteristics. In its most recent years, PSSC seems to have turned into a mature adult as it has become very mindful of its larger responsibilities, and as it has taken very important strategic decisions about what it will and will not do in consideration of its strengths and weaknesses. In its midlife, PSSC is more selective in its associations, is more deliberate in its decision-making processes, but is also setting higher standards of performance related to the goals it has defined for itself.

This vibrancy of PSSC's 40-year life is what we seek to commemorate in this special 40th anniversary issue of the *PSSC Social Science Information*. The late Dr. Bonifacio Salamanca

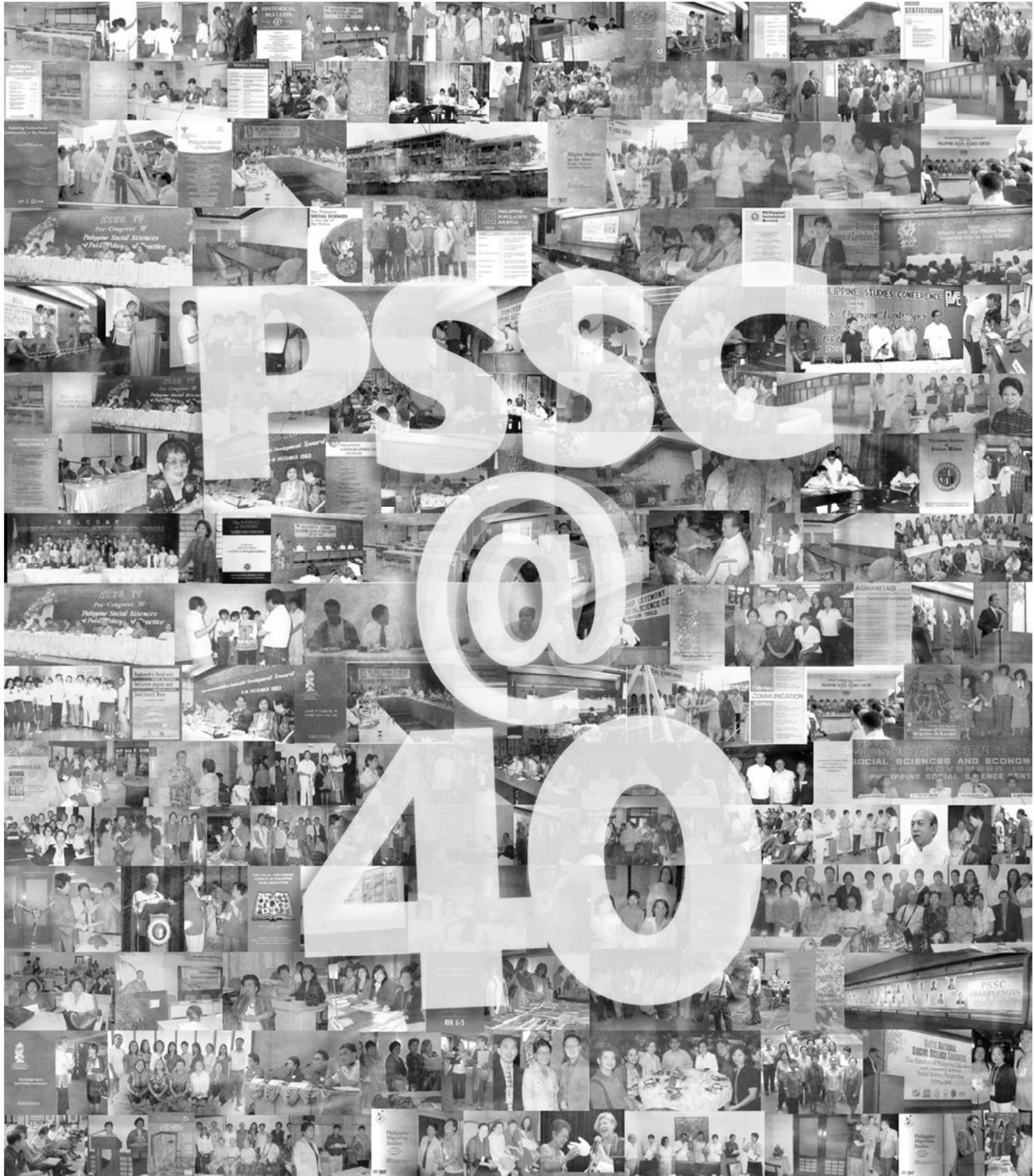
wrote a definitive history of PSSC's early years in a 25th anniversary special issue of the *PSSC Social Science Information* published in 1993. But the fullness and richness of PSSC's 40-year history is best experienced through the multiple vistas of many of the leading lights of Philippine social science who actually lived the life of the Council. Hence, in this special issue, we can read, and depending on how old one is, either reminisce or vicariously experience different episodes in the life of PSSC. I invite the readers to focus on three important players in this composite history of PSSC.

First, we can see how the organization and its programs were born and then transformed over the years. The contributions of PSSC's dynamic Executive Director Dr. Virginia Miralao and the PSSC staff describe the various current programs of PSSC, and these articles give us a sense of the depth and breadth of the organizations' activities while underscoring the lean organization that sustains these activities. The reminiscences of past PSSC Chairs, officers, partners, grantees, and fellows give us snapshots of the organization's programs in the earlier years, and collectively constitute a collage of continuities and discontinuities. Many of the specific programs of PSSC can be best appreciated as our writers embed their recollections within the socio-political



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environment at different points of the Philippines' recent history. And the last point underscores how the life of PSSC has been closely interconnected with developments and issues in Philippine society.

Second, we can also observe how PSSC's life has been defined by its associations. The most immediate family, so to speak, of PSSC is its rambunctious group of regular member organizations whose representatives have directly shaped the policies and programs of the Council. The reflections of some of our representatives from these 14 organizations are featured in this special anniversary issue. PSSC's numerous associate member organizations have also contributed to ensuring that the programs and activities of PSSC reach the widest possible geographic and sectoral scope. From its earliest years, the life of PSSC has been strongly influenced by various important national and international organizations. I will refrain from naming these various groups as I risk forgetting one or more of these important organizations. We can read messages and reflections from representatives of some of these PSSC partner organizations. Reading the pieces of these representatives as well as those of many PSSC insiders will underscore the importance of how PSSC's various associations have defined not only its activities, but more importantly its focus and priorities.

Finally, the various reflections and reminiscences draw attention to the role of individuals. Individual Philippine social scientists played very important roles in the establishment

of PSSC, as a different set of social scientists undertook different tasks to sustain and to transform the programs and activities of PSSC. Various writers in this special anniversary issue mention key persons and their specific important contributions to the PSSC at different points in the latter's existence. Perhaps the most poignant of these pieces is the tribute of former NEDA Director-General, Dr. Gerardo Sicat, to his wife Dr. Loretta Makasiar Sicat, who served as PSSC's Executive Director from 1977 to 1984. The tribute recalls the history of PSSC from the viewpoint of the life of one person, Dr. Loretta Sicat, and the various people she worked with, and accentuates the all too important fact that organizations and programs are ultimately given life and direction by individual persons.

I therefore invite our readers to immerse themselves in every single article and reflection in this special anniversary issue, so that they can appreciate the life so far of what is still a thriving and growing organization. The readers should also pay attention to some contributors' forecasts and prospects about the future of PSSC and of social science in the Philippines. Indeed, anniversaries are intended not only to reflect on one's past, but perhaps more importantly, to allow one to plan for the future. As we honor the programs, partners, and personalities of PSSC's past, we should also look forward to creating spaces to new sets of programs, partners, and personalities of the future. Perhaps some of our readers will see themselves as being of the important persons who will define the PSSC's next 40 years.

PSSC: 40 Years Later

VIRGINIA A. MIRALAO

Executive Director
Philippine Social Science Council



2008 has been a busy year for PSSC, with the Council hosting two major conferences – the *National Social Science Congress* and the *International Conference on Philippine Studies*, in addition to managing its regular programs and other special activities.

Thinking back, it was rather fortuitous that PSSC's governing body in the early 1980s thought of instituting a **National Social Science Congress** to be held every five years and bring the social sciences to bear on the discussion of contemporary social issues and developments. This once-in-every-five-years activity was launched in 1983, ensuring that a National Social Science Congress (now commonly known as NSSC) would take place during PSSC's major anniversaries – that is, during its 25th year in 1993, its 40th year this year, and PSSC's next major golden anniversary in 2018 and, Insh'allah, its diamond jubilee in 2043.

This 40th anniversary issue of *PSSC Social Science Information* celebrates the Council's 40 years of existence and brings together contributions from colleagues, friends and partners who generously gave of themselves and time to write a piece for this issue. Their contributions come in many forms — congratulatory messages, their memoirs and

recollections of their involvement with and time at PSSC, their reflections of what PSSC was, is, and should be, how the Council may wish to reinvent itself in the future, and other words of wisdom to the successor generation of Filipino social scientists.

Our contributors come from some of our senior social scientists who played key roles in the founding and establishment of PSSC, the current Chair and former Chairs of the Council, recipients and participants of PSSC grants and programs, PSSC's partners and funders in the development of the social sciences, and members of the PSSC Secretariat. Their narratives capture various aspects of PSSC's organizational life and history.

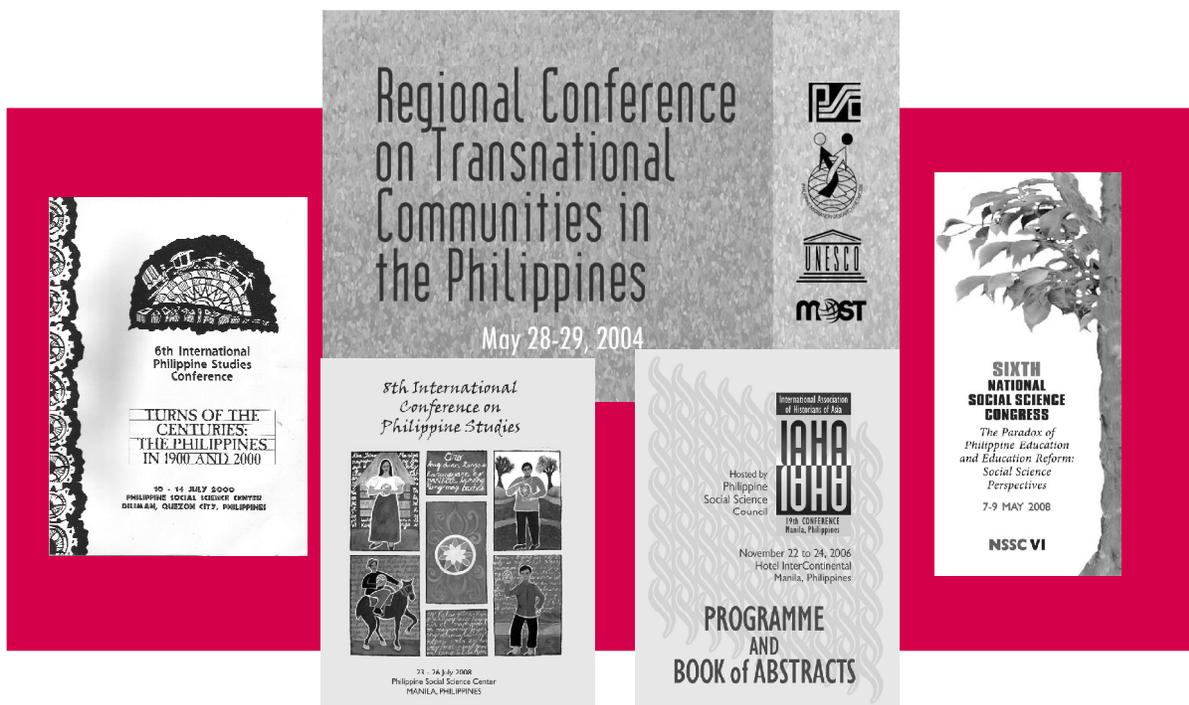
The story of PSSC's beginnings is well-preserved in *The Philippine Social Science Council: The First 25 Years*, painstakingly researched and prepared by a colleague, the late historian Bonifacio S. Salamanca and appearing in another special issue of the *PSSC Social Science Information* (Vol. 23, Nos. 3-4). This piece, *PSSC: 40 Years Later*, seeks to describe the Council's current operations and programs, and give an account of the growth and expansion of PSSC's capacities and resources over the years.

Conference Management

Arguably, the management and launching of conferences has emerged a core competence of PSSC. As known by most everyone, the Council from its inception has organized numerous fora, symposia, and similar gatherings designed to foster the exchange and sharing of knowledge and perspectives among social scientists and between the social science community and the broader public. Among others, many will probably remember the *Forum for People's Concerns* organized by the Council's Social Issues Committee in the 1980s, the *Public Lecture Series* sponsored by PSSC Associate Members in the 1990s, and the *Philippine Democratic Audit Forum Series* launched by PSSC in partnership with Manila universities and lawyers' groups at the beginning of the millennium.

The social science meetings and conferences organized by PSSC have not been limited to local or national events but include regional (Asianwide) and international conferences in the social sciences, the humanities and related fields

on a relatively recurring basis. As a member of the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC) and serving as AASSREC's Secretariat for several terms up to 2005, PSSC was responsible for planning and organizing AASSREC's biennial conferences and regional symposia held in Manila (1979, 1991 and 1994) and in other AASSREC member-countries (in Beijing 1997, Seoul 1999, Hanoi 2001, Canberra 2003 and New Delhi 2005). In 1995, PSSC hosted the International Federation of Social Science Organizations' (IFSSO) conference on "Globalization, Cooperation and Conflict"; and prior to this year's 8th ICOPHIL, PSSC had hosted the third ICOPHIL in 1989 and the 6th ICOPHIL in 2000. For the 3rd time likewise, the International Association of Historians of Asia (or IAHA) chose the Philippines and PSSC in 2006 to host its 19th IAHA Conference. One might say that the conferences organized by PSSC have gotten bigger and better over the years and the recent success of NSSC VI and the 8th ICOPHIL in 2008 has sealed PSSC's reputation as an able and efficient organizer and reliable partner in conference hosting and management.



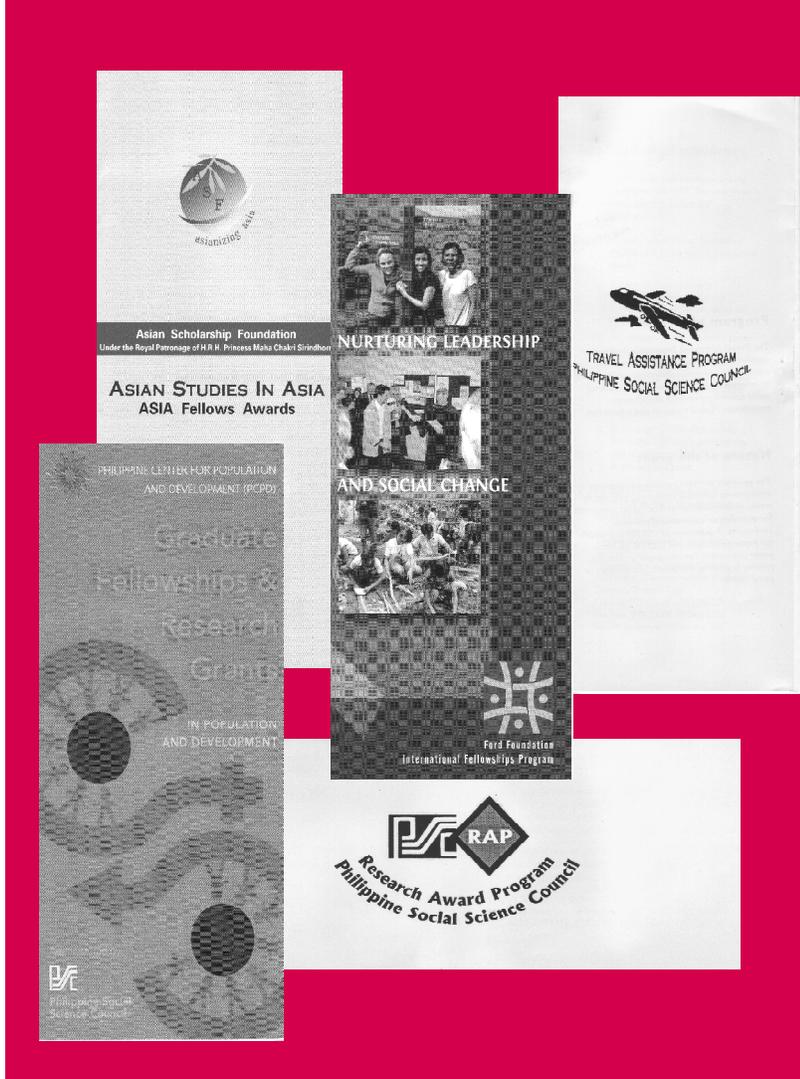
Fellowships and Grants Administration

It is also quite known that PSSC administers a number of grants and awards from its own budget and programs to support training and research among successor generations of Filipino social scientists. Since 1972, PSSC has increased its support for its **Research Award Program** designed to assist graduate students in the social sciences complete their thesis or dissertation requirements and obtain their Master's or PhD degrees. As of 2007, as many as 411 graduate students have successfully completed their graduate degrees under PSSC's Research Award Program. The directory of these grantees (also referred to as RAP grantees) which appeared in the last issue of *PSSC Social Science Information* (Vol. 35 Nos. 1 & 2) shows that not a few of them are now prominent practitioners and leaders in their own fields and professions.

PSSC too, funds from its own Regional and International Linkages budget a **Travel Assistance Program** to encourage Filipino social scientists to prepare and present papers in social scientific conferences abroad and participate in such international gatherings. The Research Award Program and the Travel Assistance Program are in addition to the traditional Conference Grants which the Council extends annually to PSSC regular member-associations so that each may convene a yearly conference to share their work and debate and discuss trends and issues in their respective disciplines.

Other than its own modest grant-making programs, PSSC has likewise been tapped by other foundations and agencies to help administer or implement much larger fellowships and scholarship programs. From 1979 through the 1980s, PSSC helped administer foreign fellowship programs including those sponsored by the Mid-West Universities Consortium for International

Activities, Inc., the Washington State University/Indonesia Program and the Agricultural Development Council (ADC) Asian Fellowship Program. PSSC continued to administer the latter even after ADC merged with other institutions to become the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development. This Asian Fellowship Program was designed to provide full financial support to Asian graduate students pursuing social science-related courses in the Philippines and specializing in agriculture and rural development. Towards the close of the program in 1989, PSSC had assisted 283 ADC-Winrock scholars from six Asian countries obtain their graduate degrees in agriculture, economics, sociology, environmental studies and other courses from the University of the Philippines (Diliman and Los Baños); Ateneo de Manila



University; De La Salle University; Central Luzon State University; and Benguet State University.

In 2001, the Ford Foundation sought PSSC's partnership to implement the Foundation's **International Fellowships Program (IFP)** in the Philippines. This program represents the Ford Foundation's largest-ever grant-making activity which seeks to expand opportunities for graduate education to those groups and sectors of society which historically, have lacked access to the benefits of advanced education — as those living in more rural and remote places, the economically disadvantaged and other social minorities as the disabled and ethnic minorities. PSSC is one among some 20 international partner organizations of the Ford Foundation which implement the IFP in 21 countries around the world. As international partner, PSSC is responsible for promoting IFP in the Philippines, recruiting applicants from the Program's special target groups, screening and reviewing applications, and selecting and interviewing IFP semi-finalists and finalists. For each round or batch of successful IFP applicants moreover, PSSC provides a host of other services to assure Fellows-Elect of admission to the graduate degree programs and universities of their own choice. To maximize academic gains from the program, IFP-Philippines encourages Fellows-Elect to aim for admission in universities abroad. The program's post-selection services therefore, include an orientation and academic advising program and some 4 to 6 weeks of academic preparations where Fellows-Elect are provided training in English language proficiency, computer operations, and research conceptualization and methodologies to boost their chances of admission to good foreign universities. The IFP feature on pp. 26 to 31 of this issue details the accomplishments of IFP-Philippines to date.

PSSC was approached by the Asian Scholarships Foundation also in 2001 to similarly ask the Council to administer its **ASIA Fellowships**

Awards (AFA) in the Philippines, a function which the Philippine-American Education Foundation previously undertook for the Bangkok-based Asian Scholarship Foundation. The AFA, which allows young scholars and mid-career professionals to carry out a research project in any field of Asian Studies (Arts, Culture, Humanities and the Social Sciences) in any one of AFA's participating countries in Asia, seeks to build the Asian region's own pool of intellectuals and specialists who can further the growth and development of Asian Studies from within the region. To date, 29 Filipino scholars from some 10 different universities and institutions nationwide have successfully competed for the AFA grants and pursued their research undertakings in nine countries in the region (China, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia, South Korea, Vietnam and Nepal).

More recently in 2007, PSSC entered into an agreement with the **Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD)** to implement the latter's Graduate Fellowships and Research Grants. PCPD's graduate fellowships and research grants are meant to support graduate students in the social sciences with a particular interest or concentration in the field of population and development. PCPD Graduate Fellowships offer two years of full support to students pursuing their Master's or PhD program in Anthropology, Communication, Demography, Economics, Political Science, Public Administration or Sociology at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. The PCPD Research Grants on the other hand, provide financial support to PhD students in the above fields/programs to enable them to complete their dissertation soonest. As with IFP-Philippines and the AFA, PSSC takes charge of promoting the PCPD Fellowships and Grants, identifying and recruiting prospective applicants and selecting the fellows and grantees. It also takes charge of directly disbursing the tuition and stipend fees of PCPD fellows/grantees. PSSC

works closely with the UP Population Institute and the UP School of Economics to recruit and train PCPD scholars and fellows. As of the first semester of SY 2008-2009, PSSC is assisting through the PCPD scholarships, four MA students in Economics; two MA students in Demography/Population Studies and one doctoral student in Sociology.

Research and Publications

To help build the country's social science research capability, a Research Training Program became a priority of PSSC during its formative years in the 1970s. With a grant from the Ford Foundation, the program sought to upgrade training and research for social science teachers and practitioners in the provinces and Metro Manila. Under the direction of the late Fr. Frank Lynch, SJ, and then Program Coordinator Pilar Ramos-Jimenez, trainees spent six weeks of the summer months at the Ateneo de Manila University for training in Basic, Advanced, and Specialized Research. Upon the return to their respective home colleges and universities in the provinces, they helped establish new social science research offices or departments in their institutions or added to the capacities of an already existing research unit, if there was one. PSSC helped each of these newly-established units become operational by getting them involved in a few National Surveys that were carried out during those early years. The provincial Centers, now linked to each other as the PSSC Social Science Research Network, collected survey data and sent these to Manila where data processing and analysis were continued by the more experienced researchers.

The practice of having survey data analyzed and written up in Manila changed as the provincial researchers gained more experience and expertise of their own. In the early 80s, again with a grant from the Ford Foundation, PSSC launched the Research Consortia Program. Three research

consortia groups were organized in the regions of Bicol, Visayas, and Eastern Mindanao from some of the provincial centers that had been developed earlier. The consortia secured regional project grants from two of the leading development institutions of that era, NEDA's the Philippine Institute for Development Studies and International Development Research Centre of Canada to study the social components of development projects introduced in their regions.

By the late 80s and early 90s, the consortium format of research gave way gradually to more independent work by the participating consortia members, an indication perhaps of some success in PSSC's earlier efforts of strengthening institutions. This was shown in the case for example, of research centers in Ateneo de Davao, Notre Dame of Cotabato City, St. La Salle College in Bacolod, San Carlos University in Cebu, and Ateneo de Naga which to this day, continue to run research projects and put out publications on their own.

Still conscious of the importance of research and publications to the advancement of the Philippine social sciences, PSSC today strives to contribute to such undertakings the best way it can. PSSC does this by maximizing the dissemination of research findings and papers presented at conferences through publications. PSSC thus has kept the tradition of publishing selected papers from its National Social Science Congresses and the other fora and conferences that it has hosted or sponsored. Over the years, PSSC too has sought to publish the results and findings of research projects it has undertaken with partner groups and agencies.

Among PSSC's publications in the last several years are two volumes from NSSC IV on the theme *The Philippine Social Sciences in the Life of a Nation* and which also formed the core of the 20th Annual Scientific Meeting of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) at the Philippine Plaza Hotel in July 1998.

Several publications also resulted from the next NSSC V in 2003, on the theme *What's with the Filipino Youth: Perspectives from the Social Sciences* including two conference background publications issued by PSSC (*A Guide to Studies on the Filipino Youth: 1960-2003* and *The Filipino Youth: Some Findings from Research*); a special issue of the *Philippine Journal of Psychology* on Filipino Adolescents (Vol. 36 No. 2, 2003); and two issues of *PSSC Social Science Information* (Vol. 32 Nos. 1 and 2, 2003) which carried selected papers from NSSC V.

Two publications also on the youth resulted from PSSC's research undertaken with the Social and Human Sciences Committee of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (SHS-UNACOM). The findings of this research were likewise presented during NSSC V and subsequently formed the bases of the Philippines' country paper for the 15th AASSREC Biennial Conference in Canberra in November 2003 on *Youth Transitions in Asia*.

Still in partnership with SHS-UNACOM, PSSC began in 1999 (when former PSSC Chair, the late Brother Andrew Gonzalez, FSC, was serving as Education Secretary) a review of textbooks used in Philippine elementary and high schools. Based on this, the PSSC-SHS-UNACOM collaboration moved on to formulate and recommend proposals for using social science concepts to enhance the contents and teaching of social studies subjects in Philippine basic education. Between 1999 and 2002, this collaboration produced three publications that have been used widely by teachers, book writers and the Department of Education in ongoing efforts at curriculum renewal and reform.

PSSC's collaboration with UNESCO's Management of Social Transformation (MOST) Program also proved to be a most useful and productive undertaking. Under MOST, PSSC formed the Philippine Migration Research Network (or PMRN) in 1995 to pursue research that would shed light on the changing migration



patterns and increasing multiculturalism within and across countries in the Asia-Pacific. PMRN through PSSC has released seven books on Philippine population movements since then, and the Network is optimistic it will continue to publish additional titles in the future.

PSSC's publications further include those arising from its partnership with Japan Foundation-Manila Office consisting of one publication that commemorates the golden anniversary (in 2006) of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and Japan; and another book containing the papers presented at a special panel on *Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Southeast Asia: Progress and Challenges Through Half-a-Century* of the 19th IAHA Conference held in November 2006.

Finally, it should be mentioned that demand for some of PSSC's publications on particular themes (e.g. as the youth or from the Basic Education Series and the PMRN Series) has been

quite good that we either have run out of copies or have had to reprint some of these. In turn, the growing sales of PSSC publications may be a good metric of the utilization of these by fellow scholars/researchers and by public decision-makers and other professionals. The sales from PSSC publications also ensure the replenishment of Council resources to continue its future research and publication activities.

Organizational Transformations

Just like other organizations which have been around for sometime, PSSC has undergone internal restructuring over the years to allow it to adapt to changing conditions (both internal and external) even as the Council strived to preserve and strengthen its institutional moorings. Earlier accounts of PSSC's history and development as the Silver Jubilee Report of PSSC Executive Board President Amarylles T. Torres in 1993 and Dr. Bonifacio S. Salamanca's *The Philippine Social Science Council: The First 25 Years* allude to organizational challenges faced by the Council at that time and how these impeded management decision-making and the efficiency of the Secretariat and PSSC as a whole.

These organizational challenges, and others that have come after, have been and continue to be addressed in many ways. One has been through a series of amendments to PSSC's Constitution and By-Laws (in 1994, 1996, 1999, 2005) meant to correct inconsistent provisions and other structural features of PSSC's organization that made for contentious relationships between/among PSSC's policy-making bodies and member-organizations. The Amendments Committees which were constituted at various times to review, deliberate and consult on the changes to the PSSC Charter sought to enshrine in the Charter three basic organizational principles to make PSSC more current and responsive not only to ongoing changes in the



environment but also to the growth and development of PSSC member-organizations. These principles are 1) PSSC will have only one policy-making and decision-making body (currently, the PSSC Board of Trustees); 2) Membership in the Council is on an organizational/institutional basis and not on an individual/personal capacity; and 3) The autonomy of member-associations will be upheld in the PSSC Charter. Reflecting these principles, the amendments to the Charter have allowed PSSC to arrive at higher levels of consensus in decision-making and to act/work more cohesively for common tasks and purposes.

A second measure used to address organizational issues consisted of management audits undertaken by a Management Audit Committee constituted by PSSC in 1993, and by the UP Public Administration Research and Extension Services Foundation which was commissioned by the Council in 1995 to do a similar audit. These management audits focused primarily on the PSSC Secretariat, reviewing its organizational set-up and staffing pattern and the functions and performance of personnel. These audits led to the reorganization of the PSSC Secretariat into the three functional sections that it has today, namely, the Technical Services and Information Section, the Center Management Section, and the Financial Management Section. The audits and subsequent organizational reviews also streamlined the PSSC Secretariat and rationalized staff-position classifications and compensation packages. The streamlining of PSSC's Secretariat generally followed the changing priorities and programs of the Council over time, although ICT advances also contributed to this. The increased availability of telephone line connections and the appearance of mobile phones for example, rendered certain positions in the Secretariat (i.e., telephone operator, clerks, messenger and maintenance personnel) redundant, as did the increasing computerization of PSSC operations and services. As with PSSC's

security services, building care, ground maintenance and janitorial services have also been outsourced to external providers. Today, PSSC's Secretariat consists of just 15 personnel adept at multi-tasking and skilled in rendering technical, administrative and project/program management support and services. Staff salaries and compensation have been adjusted commensurately. These changes have professionalized PSSC's secretariat services and boosted staff motivation and morale.

Last but not least, mention must be made of the other measures adopted by PSSC to enhance the organizational life of its member-associations and ensure their compliance with PSSC's own membership rules and requirements. To remain in good standing, the PSSC Charter requires its regular members to be current in their payment of membership dues and the publication of their discipline/professional journals and conscientious in their attendance of Board and General Membership Meetings as well as in the submission of their annual reports to PSSC. Except for the rule on journal publications, PSSC associate members are also bound by the same requirements. In the last several years therefore, a Membership Committee constituted by PSSC reviews and monitors the standing of regular and associate members and imposes the necessary sanctions (also stipulated in the PSSC By-Laws) for non-compliance to existing rules. These sanctions include the temporary suspension of benefits (as the P30,000 conference grant given to regular members each year) and termination. All these have resulted in a more vibrant/active participation of members in PSSC-organized undertakings and a consistently high attendance of PSSC Board and General Membership meetings.

Aiming for Financial Sufficiency

Equally significant were the steps taken by the Council to ensure its financial health and

match the organizational adjustments made to enhance PSSC's capacity and effectiveness. Hence, since the mid 1990s, it adopted a zero-based budgeting approach to the preparation of its annual financial requirements so that the Council does not spend more than what it earns over a given period and ends up with a balanced budget each year. The strategy was meant to conserve existing resources and to grow and improve on PSSC's resources and assets over time.

But given PSSC's minimal operating budget then (some 5 to 6 million pesos in 1994-1995), the need to raise additional income was recognized if the Council were to sustain and expand its regular programs and activities. The Finance and Personnel Committees constituted by successive PSSC Councils/Boards since the mid 1990s worked hard to formulate the necessary policies and Council/Board resolutions to boost PSSC's revenues from its regular income sources. Since rent from the Philippine Social Science Center (PSSCenter) is PSSC's largest source of revenue, the Council imposed rental rate increases yearly from 1997 to 1999, and then again in 2000, 2004 and 2008. Likewise, measures increasing PSSC membership dues were adopted also yearly from 1996 to 1998 and subsequently in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2007. The measures increasing rental rates and membership fees were passed not without resistance although these have had

the effect of updating PSSC's rental rates to market level and its membership fees to an institutional (vs. an individual membership) rate. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, these measures have significantly raised PSSC's revenues from rent and membership dues.

PSSC's other regular income sources are from its Book Center Sales and the Management/Administrative Fees it charges its externally-funded programs and activities. Figures 3 and 4 similarly show revenues from these sources to have increased substantially since 1996. The increases in book sales are due to the improved services of our Book Center and Central Subscription Service, the continuous publication of work emanating from PSSC's research projects and conference activities (NSSCs, PMRN etc.), and from the increasingly updated release of the journal publications of PSSC member-organizations. The increases in Management Income on the other hand, reflect the increased number and volume of externally-funded programs and initiatives handled by PSSC in the last several years.

The improvements in revenues from the above sources have not only raised PSSC's income/resources overall, but have lent much needed financial stability to the Council, given that PSSC's earnings from its long-term investments (also a traditional income source of PSSC) have

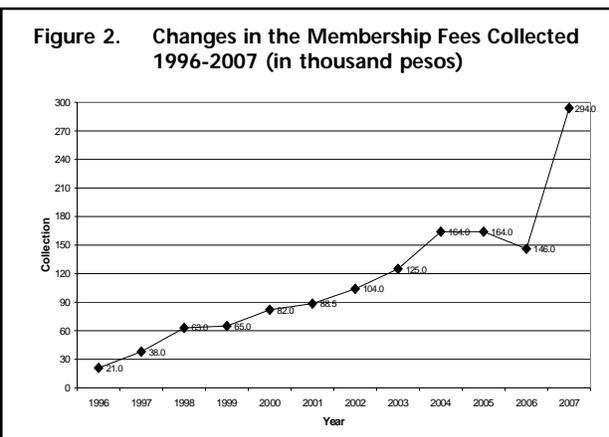
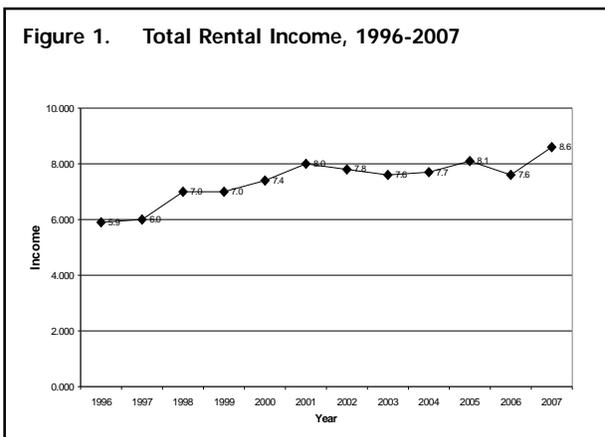


Figure 3. Changes in the PSSC Book Center Sales 1996-2007 (in thousand pesos)

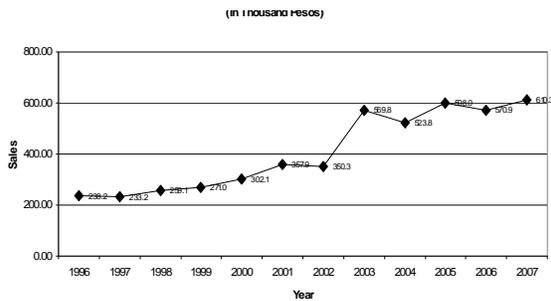
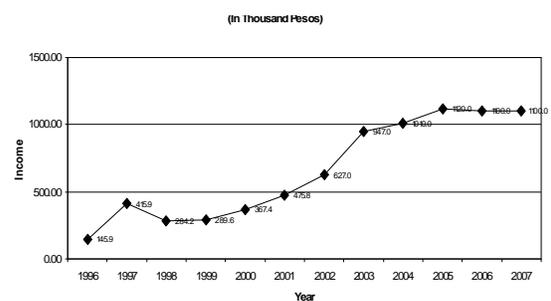


Figure 4. Changes in Management Income, 1996-2007 (in thousand pesos)



been erratic ever since the 1997 Asian financial crisis (see Fig. 5). It is hoped that PSSC's improved financial status will help it weather market volatilities and political uncertainties that continue to this day.

The steps taken to raise revenues were complemented with measures to trim down expenditures, and keep PSSC afloat and not resort to deficit-spending. The Secretariat was enjoined to work with reduced budgets for supplies and materials, meetings and documentation, and transport and communications and utilities. But the major savings in PSSC's operating costs resulted from 1) the periodic streamlining and restructuring of the Secretariat following the recommendations of the 1993 and 1996 management audits and continuing organizational reviews; and 2) the reduction in the frequency of PSSC's major organizational

meetings and gatherings. Since 2006, PSSC Board of Trustees meetings are held every quarter while the General Membership Meeting is held once a year in February; whereas previously, the Board met every month and the General Membership met two times a year. As will be shown later, the huge savings realized from these measures have allowed PSSC to raise the budgets for its regular programs, add to the Council's Endowment Fund, and embark on a major renovation of the PSSCenter.

Extending the trends in PSSC's financial standing to 2008 from those noted earlier in the Council's 2003 Annual Report, Figure 6 shows PSSC's total operating budget for both Council Program operations and PSSCenter Building operations to stand at P14.3 million or close to twice the Council's operating budget of P7.2 million in 1996. PSSC's Endowment Fund too, has

Figure 5. Changes in Investment Income, 1996-2007 (in million pesos)

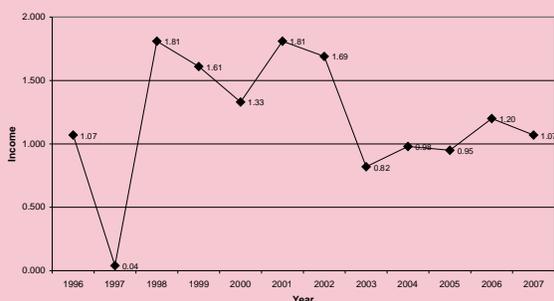


Figure 6. Changes in Total Operating Budget (Council Programs and Building and Administrative Budgets), 1996-2008 (in million pesos)

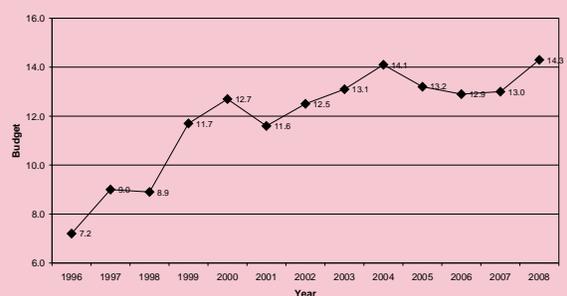


Figure 7. Changes in Balances of the Endowment Fund, 1979-2007 (in million pesos)

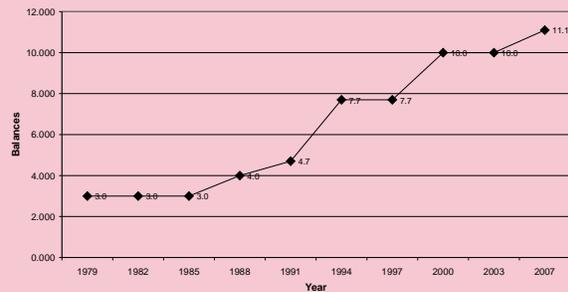
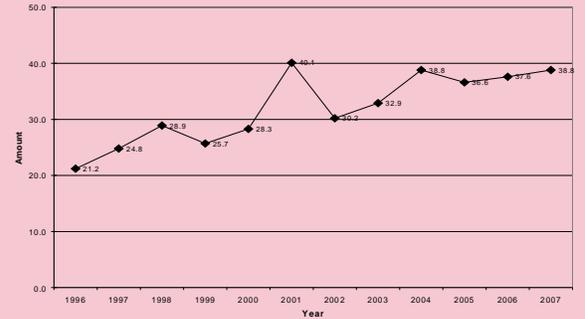


Figure 8. Changes in the Balances of Assets, 1996-2007 (in million pesos)



been augmented over the years from improvements in Council savings and revenues. This currently amounts to P11.1 million, up from P7.7 million in 1993, and P3.0 million in 1979 (see Fig. 7).

Finally, PSSC's audited financial statements from 1996 to 2007 reveal an 83 percent growth in the Council's total assets (see Fig. 8) from some P21.2 million in 1996 to P38.8 million in 2007. After deducting the Council's total liabilities (see Fig. 9) and all other encumbered fund balances (e.g., as the endowment fund and special projects fund) from total assets, PSSC's General Fund Balance increased over 40 percent during the same period, from P8.5 million in 1996 to P12.3 million in 2007 (see Fig. 10).

Expanding PSSC's Regular Programs and Member-Benefits

As mentioned earlier, increasing revenues allowed the Council to expand its regular programs and increase the benefits accruing to PSSC member-organizations. The annual allocation for the Research Award Program for example, was raised from P60,000 to P100,000 in 1993-1994, and which was then doubled to P200,000 in 2000. This also doubled the maximum grant to PhD students to P40,000 from P20,000 previously; and increased the maximum grant for MA students to P20,000 from only P8,000 in 1999.

The yearly budget for Travel Assistance and International Linkages was raised likewise from P70,000 in 1996 to P175,000 in 2000 and P350,800 in 2007. Because there are many applicants for

Figure 9. Changes in Balances of Liabilities, 1996-2007 (in million pesos)

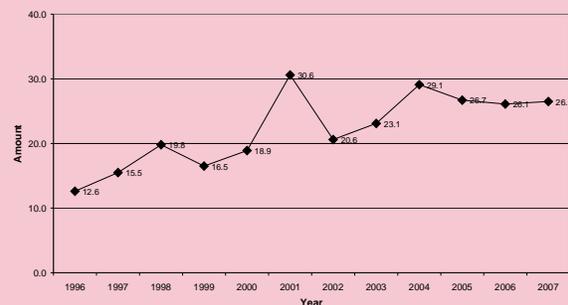
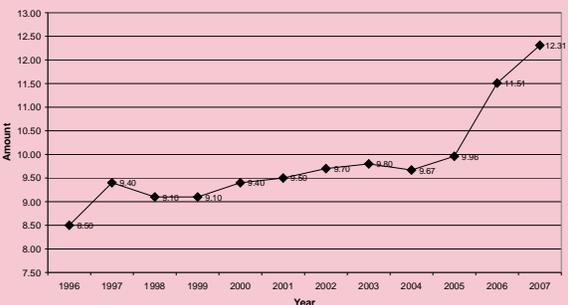


Figure 10. Changes in Balances of the General Fund, 1996-2007 (in million pesos)



travel grants, this budget is usually consumed before the end of the year. Consequently, PSSC has had to limit maximum travel assistance to US\$500 for paper presenters in international conferences and US\$300 for non-paper presenters as panel chairs and discussants.

Large budget increases have also been effected for PSSC's Conference Grants to its regular member-associations. Annual outlays for these rose from P70,000 in 1996 to P280,000 in 2000 and to P420,000 in 2007. Currently, members are assured of a P30,000 annual conference grant as against a lower P20,000 in recent years, and only P5,000 in 1996.

The above are in addition to other types of assistance and benefits that PSSC member-associations can avail themselves of, as the following: 1) an interest-free publications loan of up to P55,000 to ensure the timely release of the journals of PSSC member-disciplines; 2) discounted rental rates for the use of PSSC's auditorium and function rooms for conferences and other fora organized or sponsored by its

members; 3) and the free use of PSSC rooms/facilities of up to six hours per month for the Executive Board meetings of member-associations; and 4) other assistance in the promotion and sales of members' journals and publications.

Renovating the Philippine Social Science Center

Increases in PSSC's revenues further allowed the Council to invest in the PSSCenter which houses the Council's offices and those of its members and is also the Council's main source of income. It is but logical then for PSSC to care for its building and ensure that the Council will always have a well-maintained place and facility to conduct its affairs.

In the late 1990s, PSSC began to systematically set aside funds to undertake major repairs on the 15-year old PSSCenter which was built in 1983. The first of such undertakings included the retiling and repair of bathrooms on all floors of the PSSCenter, the repainting and waterproofing of roofs, and a general wash-out of exteriors to clean these of accumulated grime. Then in 2005, PSSC began a major renovation effort to modernize the rooms and facilities of the Center. The first to be completed were the Loretta Makasiar-Sicat Board Room, the PSSC



Secretariat Offices, the Frank Lynch SJ Library and Resource Center on the second floor of the PSSCenter, and the Canteen and dining area on the first floor. The next big jobs in 2006 were the renovation of the Mercedes B. Concepcion Seminar Room and the installation of a new perimeter fence and lighting around the building. Renovations continued through 2007-2008 on the PSSC Auditorium, the PSSC Conference Room, the Eufronio Alip Training Room and the PSSCenter's main entrance and lobby. All these were completed in time for the opening of NSSC VI on 7 May 2008.

The renovations have brought light and color to the PSSCenter and modernized its building design, even as it has also been Filipinized with the use of bamboo, sampaguita glass and other indigenous materials. PSSC continues to receive many compliments on how much improved and how much nicer looking the PSSCenter has become — compliments which we owe in no small measure to PSSC Renovations Architect Rosario Encarnacion-Tan.

Linkages and Possibilities

The increased resources of PSSC must not only be reckoned with the improvements in its revenues and the PSSCenter, but also in terms of the numerous social and institutional linkages that PSSC has built over time. These include the Council's partnerships with donor groups as UNESCO (and specially its Social and Human Sciences Sector), the Ford Foundation and Japan Foundation, as well as with government agencies as the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the National Historical Institute, the National Research Council of the Philippines, and the National Academy of Science and Technology. PSSC too has been fortunate to have enjoyed the support of the country's leading universities in Metro Manila — the University of the Philippines,

Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University — and other institutions of higher learning in the provinces.

But it is PSSC's regular and associate member-organizations that serve as its core network for promoting and carrying out PSSC's programs and activities in colleges and universities across the country and among other sectors of Philippine society. The task of advancing the Philippine social sciences rests principally with PSSC's member-disciplines and its network of associate members. PSSC provides the venue and offers opportunities for its network of members to meet and connect, learn about and support one another's initiatives, and collaborate on joint endeavors.

PSSC's linkages too, extend to the many students and scholars who have availed themselves of various grant programs of the Council — as the Research Award Program and Travel Assistance Program grantees and the recipients of the newer IFP, AFA and PCPD fellowship programs. As mentioned earlier, many of PSSC's former grantees have emerged successful professionals on their own right. Some have returned to their universities and provinces and are now leading figures in their institutions, while others have become famous for their involvement in local and national affairs. It goes without saying that PSSC's reach across the country owes much to the facilitation work and other assistance offered by former PSSC grantees.

Finally, PSSC has endeavored to develop and maintain its linkages with international social science bodies. It was one of AASSREC's foundation members in the mid 1970s (the others being the Indian Council for Social Science Research, the Korean Social Science Research Council and the National Research Council of Thailand), and remains an active member of this regional body. On their invitation, PSSC formally joined the Science Council of Asia (SCA) in 2000 and the International Social Science Council (ISSC)

in 2006. PSSC has been participating in meetings and conferences organized by both the SCA and ISSC, and has expanded its network both geographically (beyond Asia) and discipline-wise (natural sciences, environmental sciences, etc).

With its improved resource base and network of members, partners and friends, one is hopeful that PSSC will continue to function well into the future. Much work remains to be done to further improve PSSC's operations and existing programs and certainly, the Council too, must be ready to reconfigure these programs and reinvent itself to meet newer needs and contemporary challenges.

What then are some of the areas that PSSC may wish to work on in the near and medium term? One area that has been neglected, except for its physical improvement, is the Frank Lynch SJ Library. PSSC needs to assess its collections and services with the end in view of identifying and developing the Lynch Library's niche vis-à-vis the other social science collections in surrounding universities/colleges. At the same time, PSSC needs to bring the Lynch Library into the 21st century. Collections need to be updated, catalogued, and digitized to be responsive to the needs of potential users, including local faculty members, researchers and students, and foreign scholars.

Another area that PSSC must focus on is encouraging its member associations to raise the bar for journal publications. PSSC finds this important as Philippine social science journals are windows through which the world views Philippine life, society and culture. To date, some associations still have difficulty releasing their journal issues on time, which has been attributed to lack of good articles as well as inadequate funds for printing. Other associations, meanwhile, have to work on enhancing the quality of their journals to keep up with international standards. While PSSC has taken initial

steps to address these concerns (i.e. by offering printing loans, conducting workshops on journal publishing and on journal quality), much still needs to be done in the coming years to make disciplinary journals more accessible, prestigious and marketable.



PSSC 2008-2010 Board of Trustees

In the near and medium-term, PSSC can also revisit its earlier training activities and develop newer programs to enhance the capacity of younger social scientists to become effective teachers in their disciplines and do good research. Training in these areas — social science teaching and research — should in fact be pursued more systematically and more regularly for a number of reasons: one is the known limitations of social sciences curricula in Philippine universities or institutions of higher learning; and another is the oft-mentioned changing realities of the 21st century which are prompting a reconsideration/reformulation of earlier concepts, theories and methods in the social sciences. In brief, PSSC can embark on training programs to help raise the professional competence of social science faculty and engage them in ongoing reviews and reflections on social science theoretical formulations and methodologies.

Building on its earlier involvement in Philippine education and particularly in basic education, PSSC too, may consider the suggestion of becoming a resource center for continuously upgrading the social studies curriculum of elementary and secondary schools (in much the same way that there are national centers or institutes that are meant to advance math, science and language education in the country). As such, PSSC can help renew and revitalize social studies subjects by imbuing these with basic concepts and knowledge from the social sciences to help students arrive at more meaningful construals of individual and collective identities as well as of “citizenship” in today’s highly globalized context.

Finally, of still other possibilities, PSSC must move to strengthen its collaboration with its regional and international partners (as with AASSREC and ISSC) and participate in researches and programs that global social science consider as “cutting edge.” Some of these work are in the area of comparative historical research across countries and cultures; as well as pioneering initiatives in using trans/interdisciplinary approaches in research to address the complex and challenging issues of our time. It is quite clear that there is a range of vital and interesting activities and programs that can productively engage the energies of Filipino social scientists in years to come.



PSSC 2008 Secretariat

*PSSC
Programs
and
Projects*



Snapshots of the Council's

Towards the 1980s, Filipino social scientists envisioned a more active role for PSSC in nation-building, as expressed in PSSC's *Agenda for the 1980s*. The **National Social Science Congress (NSSC)** was conceived with this vision in mind. The NSSC, designed as a quinquennial activity, was intended to serve as a platform where Filipino social scientists can interact and forge ties, share their latest research, and discuss socially-significant issues with other sectors of society.

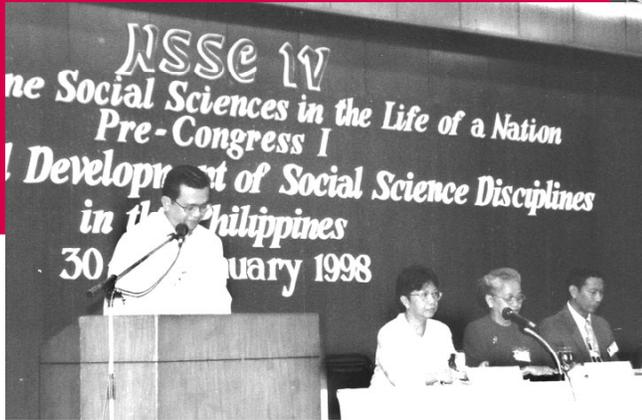
The First NSSC was held on 17-19 November 1983 at the newly-built Philippine Social Science Center. Quite fittingly, the focus of the First NSSC was the Philippine social sciences itself. Themed "Towards Excellence in Social Science in the Philippines," the First NSSC sought to examine the state of social sciences in the country as well as to formulate plans to foster the development of Philippine social

sciences. In preparation for the congress, PSSC held a series of roundtable discussions on social science structures, instructional policies and programs, research and extension, human resource development and institution-building, and research dissemination and utilization, the results of which were presented in the congress proper. This pioneering event was a huge success, keynoted by then University of the Philippines President Edgardo Angara and attended by academics and representatives from government institutions, business sector, and civic organizations.

For the Second NSSC held five years later in 24-26 November 1988, PSSC chose the theme "Social Sciences and Economic Recovery." PSSC leadership believed this to be a timely theme in view of the economic challenges faced by the newly-installed Aquino administration.

During the pre-congress roundtable discussions, social scientists engaged representatives of government in an extensive discussion of national economic programs and policies such as agrarian reform and privatization of economic sectors, as well as related issues impinging on economic progress (e.g. governance, local autonomy, education). The salient points and recommendations raised from these discussions were presented and further discussed during the congress proper attended by almost 300 participants from different sectors and institutions. The proceedings of the congress were published in the 1988 issue of the *PSSC Social Science Information*.

"Empowerment and Accountability for Sustainable Development: Towards Theory Building in the Social Sciences" was the topic of the Third NSSC held on 9-10 December 1993. In this congress, Filipino social scientists



NATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESSES

tackled the issue of sustainable development, one of the key policy thrusts of the Ramos Administration. The 350 congress participants examined the impact of major economic programs on Philippine environment and natural resources, and discussed the existing strategies employed by government to balance its aspirations of NIChood and environmental protection. One of the main outputs of the congress was the formulation of theoretical frameworks to gain a better understanding of the processes needed to bring the country closer to attaining the goal of sustainable development. Aiming for a wider circulation of the congress papers, PSSC soon after published the congress papers in one volume entitled *Empowerment and Accountability for Sustainable Development: Towards Theory Building in the Social Sciences*.

The Fourth NSSC, held on 8-9 July 1998, picked up where the First NSSC

left off. Fifteen years after the First NSSC came up with recommendations to advance social sciences in the Philippines, PSSC once again decided to look inward and take stock of developments in the social sciences. Themed "The Philippine Social Sciences in the Life of the Nation," the Fourth NSSC featured the history and development of all 13 social science disciplines; looked into the relationship of the social sciences with other branches of knowledge (e.g. agriculture, health and medicine, law, management); and reflected on their role in policymaking. The Fourth NSSC was especially significant as it was held as part of the National Academy of Science and Technology's (NAST) Annual Scientific Meeting. It marked the first time that the NAST featured and gave special attention to the social sciences in its annual meeting. A record 512 participants attended the congress proper. The papers presented in the congress were

published in two volumes: *The Philippine Social Sciences in the Life of the Nation (Volume 1): The History and Development of Social Science Disciplines in the Philippines*, and *The Philippine Social Sciences in the Life of the Nation (Volume 2): Enriching Each Other: The Encounter of the Social Sciences and Other Branches of Knowledge*. The keynote speeches delivered by guest speakers during the opening of the pre-congress symposia and the congress proper were published separately in the January-June 1998 issue of the *PSSC Social Science Information*.

The Filipino youth was the focus of the Fifth NSSC held on 15-17 May 2003. PSSC aimed to bring together social scientists and individuals and groups involved in youth concerns and programs to talk about their research and/or work on the Filipino youth. PSSC thought this to be a relevant topic given the greatly changed environment of the 21st



century brought about by the twin phenomena of technological revolution and globalization. Three publications were prepared by PSSC to serve as background materials for the congress: (a) *The Filipino Youth: Some Findings from Research* which gives an overview of the areas that had been covered by youth research and the findings/conclusions drawn from these studies; (b) *The Filipino Youth: A Statistical Profile* which presents some basic statistics on the country's youth population; and (c) *A Guide to Studies on the Filipino Youth: 1960-2003* which compiles the titles of Filipino youth studies in the last 40 years. The congress was composed of 25 panel sessions/fora, the most popular of which were those on the youth and the new ICTs, reflections of past student leaders, and the language of youth. The preliminary findings of PSSC-UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines study on youth transitions were also presented in one

panel session. Over 300 participants attended the Fifth NSSC, keyed by Dr. Reynaldo Veja, a renowned scientist and educator and former youth activist. PSSC published the keynote address, select papers and discussions, and synthesis of the congress in two special issues of the *PSSC Social Science Information* (January-June 2005 and July-December 2004). The salient points and findings in the Fifth NSSC served as inputs to the Philippine country paper for the 15th AASSREC Biennial General Conference held in November 2003 which had the theme "Asian Youth in Transition."

The latest NSSC, convened on 7-9 May 2008, dwelt on the topic "The Paradox of Education and Education Reform: Social Science Perspectives." Unlike previous conferences on education, the Sixth NSSC deliberately sought to use the theories, methods and analytic tools of the different social science disciplines to analyze the nature and status of the country's

educational system and educational reform processes. In line with this, PSSC's disciplinary members contributed panels tackling different aspects of Philippine education using the lens of their respective disciplines. In addition to the disciplinary panels, two special plenary sessions were organized, "Education and Education Reform: Experiences and Reflections from the Asia-Pacific Region" which featured leading scholars from the Asia-Pacific Region, and "Reforming Education: Reflections of Social Scientists as University Presidents" which comprised of trained social scientists currently serving as presidents of Philippine universities. The keynote address was delivered by Academician and current PSSC Chairperson Allan B.I. Bernardo. Some 223 participants from various sectors attended the congress. PSSC expects to publish select papers of the congress before year-end 2008.

- JOANNE B. AGBISIT -
*Head, Technical Services and
 Information Section*

PSSC's Research Award Program

Recognizing the central role of research in the advancement of the social sciences, much of PSSC's programs and activities have been linked with research.

In the early 1970s or soon after its formal establishment in 1968, a major concern of PSSC was the development of research capacity among the country's institutions of higher learning. For this, PSSC began a Research Training and Institutional Development Program managed by the Council's Institutional Development Committee. Its major activity was the conduct of research training programs in the summer and participated in by faculty members and the research personnel of universities and colleges from all over the Philippines. The complete program covered three summers which allowed a participant to undergo training in basic, advanced and specialized courses in social research methods. In a report on PSSC and its programs appearing in the May 1976 issue of the *PSSC Social Science Information*, then Executive Director Loretta Makasiar-Sicat noted that the Program had trained faculty and personnel from as many as 22 universities and colleges from different regions of the land. PSSC's Research Training Program enabled the formation of the PSSC Research Network among participating trainees and institutions in the mid-1970s. The Network facilitated the conduct of PSSC-led national surveys and the development of regional research centers to meet

the growing need of government offices, development aid agencies and other groups for systematic data collection and analysis and other research-related work. In the 1980s, these regional research centers came to comprise the PSSC Research Consortium which undertook studies relevant to regional/local concerns as well as to national development.

Other than the above Research Training and Institutional Development Program, PSSC had a separate "Research Program" handled by a Research Committee which awarded research grants to senior and junior social scientists. PSSC's grant-making activities were made under three categories as follows: (1) the Research Integration Program which was meant to fund "state-of-the-art" work to identify data gaps and new directions for research exploration; (2) the Modern Philippine History Program that funded the research interests and ongoing work of senior-level academicians and social scientists; and (3) the Discretionary Research Award Program which was originally intended to respond to requests from local scholars for small amounts of research funds (a maximum of P3,000 per grant).

The Discretionary Research Award Program, the predecessor of the present-day Research Award Program, turned out to be the more popular and enduring of PSSC's research programs. This is so because majority of its clientele

were (and are) graduate students completing their MAs or PhDs even as the program originally was not meant exclusively for graduate students. Towards the end of the 1980s, the Discretionary Research Award Program came to be referred to as PSSC's Research Award Program and in 1993-1994, the Research Committee instituted a number of measures to improve the provisions of the Research Award Program. Foremost among these were the increase in the allocation for the Research Award Program in PSSC's annual budget from P60,000 to P100,000; and commensurate increases in individual grants from P8,000 to P20,000 for doctoral grants, and from P5,000 to P10,000 for Master's grants. Since then, the grants under the program have been continuously upgraded. Beginning 2000 and up to the present, the allocation for the Research Award Program in PSSC's budget has doubled to P200,000 per year. Doctoral grantees are allowed a maximum grant assistance of P40,000 each, while MA level grantees can be given as much as P20,000 each.

Today, PSSC's Research Committee continues to receive some 15 to 20 Research Award Program (now commonly referred to as RAP) applications per year, around half of which successfully make it through the program's review and selection procedures, and are awarded the grants.

In turn, a high 80 percent to 90 percent of those awarded the grants in any given year complete their thesis or dissertation research and obtain their MA or PhD degrees. Four hundred eleven (411) individuals have availed of RAP assistance from 1972 to 2005 and have since completed their degree programs in the social sciences and related fields. Of this number, a clear majority (250 or 61 percent) were living and/or working in Metro Manila at the time of their applications, with only 15 percent coming from provinces in Luzon, 13 percent from Mindanao, and 9 percent from Visayas. The predominance of Metro Manila-based applicants is understandable given the fact that RAP applicants tend to be recruited from Metro Manila universities offering graduate degree programs in the social sciences. Noting this imbalance, PSSC Research Committees in the 1990s began seeking and encouraging applications from the provinces. In 1998-1999, PSSC in fact developed a Research Outreach Training Program consisting of a three-day intensive training-workshop on Thesis/Dissertation Proposal Writing to upgrade the quality of thesis proposals submitted to the Research Award Program and with regional universities and colleges as the training program's main beneficiaries. PSSC also took the Research Outreach Training Program to Tacloban City and Marawi City on the invitation of local universities. Most of the 154 non-Metro Manila RAP grantees come from the ranks of more recent RAP cohorts and it is hoped that non-Metro Manilans will continue to increase their shares of RAP applicants in the future.

Again, because of Metro Manila's disproportionate share of the country's institutions of higher learning, the overwhelming majority of RAP grantees from 1972 to 2007 (356 or 87%) obtained their graduate degrees from universities located in the National Capital Region. The University of the Philippines-Diliman campus claims the most number of graduates (58%) of RAP grantees, while Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University and their joint programs account for a much lower 21 percent, and

11 other Metro Manila universities share another 7 percent.

From the regions, some 14 RAP grantees obtained their graduate degrees from various universities in Luzon; 20 others from universities in the Visayas; and 14 from Mindanao universities. Of the provincial universities, Silliman University and the University of San Carlos in the Visayas, and Xavier University in

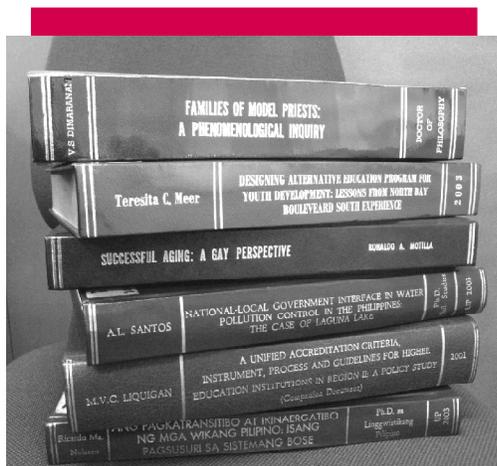
Mindanao have the larger number of RAP assisted graduates. (Research units/offices of these three universities are part of PSSC's Research Network). Finally, some seven RAP grantees obtained their degrees from abroad, three from the US, two from the UK, and one each from Germany and Australia.

In terms of degree programs, the greater number of grantees (6 out of 10) availed of RAP assistance to complete their Master's studies, while about 40 percent did so to finish their doctoral

programs. Consistent too, with RAP's objective of lending support to the formal training of successor generations of social scientists, the large majority of RAP grantees (265 or 64%) obtained their degrees in the social science disciplines that comprise PSSC. Of these disciplines, more RAP grantees have pursued graduate degrees in Psychology (75), followed by Sociology (39), History (31), Communication (29), and Anthropology and Linguistics (20 each). Over a third of the RAP grantees from 1972 to 2007 obtained their degrees not in PSSC's core disciplines, but in related fields. The more popular of these fields are Education with as many as 56 grantees, and Area (Philippine and Asian) Studies, with 40 grantees.

Finally, it is not surprising that gender-wise, there are far more women RAP grantees than men, considering that there are also more female than male college graduates in the country today. Women therefore constitute the larger pool from which graduate students (and by extension) RAP grantees would come.

(This is a shortened version of Dr. Virginia Miralao's article that originally appeared in the PSSC Social Science Information Vol. 35, Nos. 1 & 2)



Completed theses/dissertations of RAP grantees

I first heard about the PSSC in 1991 when I applied to its Research Award Program (RAP) for a research grant. The January-December 2007 issue of PSSC Social Science Information which had as its special feature the RAP listed my name as one of the nine lucky grantees for that year. Through the years, I have encouraged a number of graduate students who are writing their thesis and dissertation to apply for a RAP assistance.

*When the Commission on Higher Education contracted the services of the PSSC in 1997 to develop course materials for the General Education courses in the social sciences, I got involved as the Project Director for the General Psychology course. The two volumes of instructional materials that resulted from this project were distributed by the PSSC to hundreds of colleges and universities all over the country. The positive feedback of the General Psychology teachers who have used these course materials served as the impetus and inspiration for turning the first volume into a textbook with a manual. In June 2007, the textbook entitled *General Psychology for Filipino College Students* which I edited with Dr. Ma. Elizabeth Macapagal was released by the Ateneo de Manila University Press. A year after its publication, close to 5,000 copies have been sold. Without the course development project of 1997, there would have been no *General Psychology for Filipino College Students*.*

In 2004 and 2005, I took part in the Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program (IFP) as an expert reviewer for the documents of applicants who planned to pursue a master's degree or PhD in Psychology. In addition to the evaluation of the documents, I also had the pleasant task of meeting with the qualified applicants to help them firm up their plans for their graduate studies. It felt good to be involved in the process of making a difference in the lives of the Fellows whose dream of a higher education could come true because of a program like the IFP, and more so with the hope that they could be of better service to their community after they obtain their degree.

I am proud to have been a part of the distinguished history of the PSSC through my participation in some of its programs and projects. It is my sincere hope that the PSSC will continue to provide the leadership that will enable our professional social science associations and disciplines to respond more effectively to the social problems that get in the way of the development of a just and humane Philippine society.



Lota A. Teh, PhD
RAP Grantee '91
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The FORD FOUNDATION

International Fellowships Program-Philippines

Wellspring of Emerging Leaders and Scholars

Launched in October 2001, the Ford Foundation - International Fellowships Program which PSSC administers in the Philippines has completed six selection rounds to date, and has one selection round to go before the program finishes in a few years' time. Just like the Agricultural Development Council – Winrock International Fellowships that PSSC administered in the 1980s, well over 200 Filipinos are expected to complete their Master's and Doctorate degrees under the auspices of The Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program or IFP.

To date, some 178 IFP-Philippines Fellows from earlier selection rounds are currently enrolled in or have completed their graduate degree programs, while the 30 Fellows-designate from the latest 2008 cohort are in the process of applying and seeking admission to graduate degree programs which they hope to enter in 2009.

In line with IFP's mission of extending opportunities for advanced education to the country's less advantaged groups, the overwhelming majority of IFP –

Philippines Fellows are from places outside Metropolitan Manila. Of the total 208 Fellows, only

Table 1. Selected Characteristics of IFP-Philippines Fellows: Cohorts 2002-2008 (N=208)

	N	%
A. HOME REGION		
National Capital Region	5	2
Cordillera Administrative Region	15	7
Region I (Ilocos)	6	3
Region II (Cagayan)	14	7
Region III (Central Luzon)	23	11
Region IV-A (CALABARZON)	8	4
Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)	13	6
Region V (Bicol)	30	14
Region VI (Western Visayas)	23	11
Region VII (Central Visayas)	14	7
Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)	7	3
Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)	6	3
Region X (Northern Mindanao)	19	10
Region XI (Davao)	3	1
Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN)	1	0.5
Region XIII (CARAGA)	9	4
ARMM	12	6
TOTAL	208	100
B. No. From Ethnic Minorities		
	30	14
C. No. With Disabilities		
	6	3
D. Sex		
Male	106	51
Female	102	49
TOTAL	208	100

five come from the National Capital Region, while the remaining 203 originate from 52 out of the Philippines' 81 provinces. As many as 27 come from the country's special autonomous regions of the Cordilleras (15) and Muslim Mindanao (12). In descending order, the other regions that claim 10 or more IFP Fellows are the Bicol Region, Central Luzon, Western Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Central Visayas, the Cagayan Valley and the Mimaropa Region.

Based on their first language or mother tongue moreover, 30 of the same 208 Fellows belong to the country's ethnic minority groups. Also, six of the 208 are persons with disabilities: two are hearing-impaired, two are polio victims, and another two lost an arm to accidents. Gender-wise, there is an almost equal number of men (106) and women (102) Fellows in the selections made to date.

IFP-Philippines encourages its Fellows to study abroad. Hence, of the 178 Fellows from cohorts 2002 to 2007, 142 or a full 80 percent have enrolled in foreign universities. The greater proportion (39%) opted to go to European universities, while a slightly lower third went to US/American universities. A few others (13 Fellows) attended other universities in the region (in Australia and Thailand), and about a fifth decided to do their graduate studies in-country or in Philippine universities.

It is worth noting that those going to Europe attended 24 different universities in the United Kingdom (among them, Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, Leeds and the

London School of Economics and Political Science) and two others in the Netherlands (Wageningen and Institute of Social Studies). In the US likewise, IFP-Philippines Fellows attended 32 different universities (including Columbia, Georgetown, Brandeis, New York University); and in the region, seven other universities including the Australian National University, University of Queensland and the Asian Institute of Technology. In today's increasingly pluralist and multi-polar world, the Philippines stands to benefit from the exposure of its IFP Fellows to this wide variety of higher learning institutions from different regions across the globe.

Three-fourths of the 178 Fellows pursued MA/MS degrees, and the remaining fourth, PhD programs. Following the standard classification of educational fields/disciplines employed by governments, Figure 3 shows the diversity of courses chosen by the Fellows. They are to be found in almost all of the broad disciplinary

Table 2. IFP – Philippines Fellows by Degree Program and Country of Study: Cohorts 2002-2007 (N = 178)

REGION/COUNTRY OF STUDY	MA	PhD	ALL
UNITED STATES (32 universities)	52	8	60
EUROPE			
United Kingdom (24 universities)	24	24	48
Netherlands (2 universities)	20	1	21
ASIA-PACIFIC			
Australia (7 universities)	7	3	10
Thailand (1 university)	3	-	3
Philippines (11 universities)	27	9	36
ALL REGIONS (77 universities)	133	45	178

Table 3. IFP-Philippines Fellows by Disciplinary Categories: Cohorts 2002-2007

DISCIPLINAL CATEGORIES		NUMBER OF FELLOWS	
Education	(16)	Social and Behavioral Sciences	(27)
General Teacher Training		General Social and Behavioral Sciences	
General Education	2	Social Science	1
Teacher Training w/ Specialization in		Economics	
Non-vocational Subjects		Economics	4
Math Teaching	1	Management Economics	1
English Teaching	2	Political Science	
Science Education	2	International Relations/Affairs	2
Physics Education	1	Sociology	6
Value (Peace) Education	1	Anthropology	7
Art Education	1	Psychology	2
Teacher Training for Practical or		Clinical Psychology	1
Vocational Subjects		Counseling Psychology	2
Non-Formal Education	1	Regional Cultures/Area Studies	
Teacher Training in Special Education		Asian Studies	1
Deaf Education/Studies	1	Law and Jurisprudence	(2)
Education Science in Support of Teaching		General Law	1
Measurement and Evaluation	1	Environmental Law	1
Curriculum and Instruction	2	Natural Science	(7)
Teacher Training for Pre-School		Environmental Biology	1
Early Childhood Education	1	Conservation Biology	1
Fine and Applied Arts	(5)	Polymer Chemistry	1
General Art Studies		Toxicology	1
Fine Arts	3	Earth and Geosciences	1
Drama		Oceanography	1
Theater Arts	2	Marine Resource Management	1
Humanities	(23)	Mathematics and Computer Science	(1)
Living Languages and Literature		Statistics	1
Language and Literature		Medical and Allied Sciences	(4)
(Literary Linguistics)	1	Public/International Health	2
Comparative Literature		Community Health	1
Literature	1	Pharmacy	1
History	3	Engineering	(5)
Development Studies	18	Agricultural Engineering	1
Religion and Theology	(0)	Land and Water Engineering	1
Business Administration and Related	(18)	Energy/Electrical Engineering	2
Public Administration/Management	2	Food Engineering	1
Public Policy and Program		Architecture and Town Planning	(2)
Administration	4	Landscape Architecture	1
Media/Information Management	1	Urban and Regional Planning	1
Development Administration/			
Management	11		

Continuation...

Table 3. IFP-Philippines Fellows by Disciplinary Categories: Cohorts 2002-2007

DISCIPLINAL CATEGORIES		NUMBER OF FELLOWS	
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	(11)	Other Disciplines	(25)
Animal Science	1	Criminology	
Plant Pathology	2	Forensic Science	1
Plant Science	1	Social Work	2
Agronomy	1	Community Development	3
Crop Protection	1	Rural Development	2
Soil Science	1	Rural Livelihood	2
Veterinary Science	1	Environmental Studies	1
Organic Agriculture	1	Environmental Management	5
Forest Resource Management	2	Environment and Development	1
		Environmental Sciences	5
Craft, Trade and Industry	(0)	Women Development	
		Gender and Development Studies	1
Home Economics	(3)	Gender Studies	1
Family Life and Child Development	2	Human Resource Development	1
Food Science	1		
		New Programs Not Elsewhere	
Service Trades	(2)	Classifiable	(19)
Tourism	1	Peace and Development	1
Tourism and Travel Management	1	Peace and Conflict Resolution	2
		Cultural Production	1
Mass Communication and		Sustainable International Development	6
Documentation	(8)	Social Justice in Intercultural Relations	2
Journalism	2	Language, Culture and Media	1
Mass/Media Communication	2	Management of Agro-Ecological	
Media Ecology/Studies	2	Knowledge and Global Social Change	1
Library and Information Science	2	Applied Communication Science	2
		Intercultural Service, Leadership	
		and Management	1
		Arts Management	1
		TOTAL	178

categories used in the standard educational codes with the exception of courses under Religion and Theology, and courses under Trade, Craft and Industrial Training. A good number (19 Fellows) however, have pursued New Programs or course offerings, not elsewhere classifiable in the standard classification, as Master's programs in Peace and Development, Cultural Production, and Intercultural Service, Leadership and Management, among others.

But in terms of the standard categories, the fields that claim a substantial number of Fellows are: Social and Behavioral Sciences (27); Other Disciplines (25); Humanities (23); New Programs not elsewhere classifiable (19); Business Administration and Related Fields (18); Education (16); and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (11). In terms of specific courses, the most popular are Development Studies (18); Development Administration or Management (11); and Environmental Studies, Science or Management (12).

In 2006, I was a high school teacher and a law student at the same time. Our family was in a bad financial shape and my father had lung cancer. Walking down in the dumps gave me no time to cry. I kept going by believing in what my father usually tells me during moments of frustration, "Ganyan talaga kapag nangangarap ka (That's how it goes when you dream)." Six months after my father died, I received a scholarship grant from Ford Foundation - International Fellowships Program (IFP)-Philippines. I knew that my feet were weary from some twenty nine years of surviving; but right then and there, I strongly felt that they were more than prepared to discover new trails on another side of the globe.

Flying to New York City to take an MA in Educational Theatre at New York University, with everything paid for, was life-changing. Despite the fact that I am a woman of color coming from a third world, I empowered myself on and off campus. I joined student plays, school competitions, and international organizations. Taking the Filipino pride, I was always positively involved in volunteer work. As I immersed myself into NYU's cross-cultural education, I became more political about my goals as a Fellow of IFP-Philippines. Having been selected to become part of a multicultural inter group dialogue on campus that tackles issues on oppression, gender, and race, I found a more vivid picture of the world that I never saw. Colors may be varied, creeds diverse, communities different; but where there is social justice, everything is the same.

Now, as I step on the red leaves that fell from the withering trees, I let the tears well and smile looking at my footpaths. Because of IFP-Philippines, I may be the same person that I was two years ago, but one with a braver heart, a sharper mind, and stronger hands. Because of IFP-Philippines, I may have the same dream to mold; but this time, it is for a bigger group, better service, and greater cause. By the end of this semester, I will be back in Bayombong, Nueva Ecija, eager to resume my role in education, honored to share the liberating power of theatre, and committed to serve my community.

Yes, God wrapped my father's beautiful words and handed it to me as a gift through IFP-Philippines. And amidst the deafening applause on every Fellow's graduation day, the loudest roar goes to the IFP-Philippines Program Staff and PSSC!



Anne Richie S. Garcia

IFP-Philippines Cohort '06

MA Candidate

Educational Theatre (Colleges and Communities)

Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

New York University

Finally, out of the 178, 72 Fellows, most from earlier batches, have now completed their graduate studies. Many others will be completing their own programs in due course, and an end-of-program evaluation of IFP-Philippines in a few years' time should provide a better assessment of the Fellows' successful completion rates, as well as their eventual return and service to community and country.

Already however, IFP-Philippines, based on the completion and return of its first 72 Fellows and on feedback on the status of those still in school, is happy to have contributed to the upgrading of human resource capabilities in local institutions and in the regions. In particular, it is proud to have helped in the graduate training of not just one but several Fellows from certain offices, agencies and institutions as the local/provincial governments of Batanes and Ifugao, the Philippine Rice Research Institute, the Philippine Science High Schools, the Naval Institute of Technology of Biliran, the Bolinao Research Station of the UP-Marine Science Institute, various departments of UP Los Baños, UP Baguio and UP Mindanao, Central Luzon State University, Basilan State College and Western Mindanao State University. The crucial roles played by these institutions in ongoing decentralization efforts and in the country's overall development are well-known, and IFP-Philippines is pleased to be also playing a role in all these.



IFP-Philippines Program Director, Luisa Fernan and Program Officer Creselda Doble join other IFP program staff from the International Institute of Education and IFP-Russia and IFP-India in a sightseeing tour following the IFP Regional Meeting in New Delhi, India in March 2008.

- Virginia A. Miralao



IFP-Philippines 2008 Cohort with Pre-Academic Training Staff and Program Staff at the Frank Lynch SJ Resource Center, 7 November 2008.

ASIA Fellows Awards

Fostering Linkages and Scholarship in Asia

In early 2001, the Asian Scholarship Foundation (ASF) — a Bangkok-based non-profit organization funded by the Ford Foundation — approached the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) to explore the possibility of PSSC administering ASF's flagship program, the ASIA (Asian Studies in Asia) Fellows Awards or AFA. AFA, previously called the Asia Fellows Program, gives scholars and professionals in participating Asian countries an opportunity to conduct research in another Asian country of their choice and in the process, develop a "network of Asian specialists in Asia." ASF was seeking another home for the AFA, which at the time, was being implemented by the Philippine-American Educational Foundation or PAEF. PSSC enthusiastically took on ASF's offer, noting that the program was consistent with the goals of the organization to advance research in the social sciences and related fields, promote the professional development of social science scholars and practitioners, and foster international exchanges.

PSSC and ASF formalized their partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in 2001. The MOA tasked PSSC to locate and recruit qualified Filipino applicants, undertake initial screening of the applications, and provide assistance to non-Filipino AFA fellows who have chosen the Philippines as their research destination. Soon after the MOA signing, PSSC embarked on an information campaign to introduce the program and began to actively search for eligible applicants. PSSC sent its first set of applications to ASF in 2002, from which

four were successfully chosen. That year, PSSC also received and assisted one AFA fellow from China.

PSSC and ASF have since annually renewed their partnership through a MOA. From 2002 to 2008, 20 Filipino applicants have been successfully chosen as AFA fellows. Adding the nine individuals selected in the first two rounds (under PAEF management), this brings the total number of Filipino AFA fellows to 29. Next to India and China, the Philippines has the highest number of AFA fellows from among 22 participating countries, indicating the quality and competitiveness of research projects of Filipino applicants as well as their research competence.

The 20 fellows who were selected under the direction of PSSC have diverse profiles/backgrounds. Gender-wise, 60 percent are male, while 40 percent are female. In terms of educational background, nine have PhD degrees, and 11 completed MA degrees. They attained their highest degrees in fields of the social sciences (i.e. political science, sociology, geography, anthropology, demography, communication), and the humanities and the arts. At the time of their application, most of the fellows were affiliated with the academe as professors and researchers. Among academic institutions, the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University account for the most number of applicants and fellows. Some, meanwhile, are from government institutions and non-profit organizations.

Although PSSC exerted every effort to recruit applicants from the provinces, the majority of applicants and selected fellows remained Metro Manila-based. The lack of a strong research tradition in many academic institutions in the provinces has been the major obstacle in the recruitment process. Potential applicants were concerned about their heavy teaching load and/or administrative tasks as well as the difficulty of securing a sabbatical or getting some time off to carry out research. Research was also not valued as part of individuals' professional development. Other potential applicants, meanwhile, cite the program's age limit (45 years old) as a constraint.

The most popular research destination among Filipino fellows is Southeast Asia. During the first five years of the program (2002-2006), as many as eight fellows went to Thailand, five went to Malaysia, one headed to Indonesia, one went to Vietnam. Only two fellows opted to go to China, and none to South Asia. For this reason, the ASF, beginning in 2007, restricted Filipino fellows from conducting research in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. Following this policy decision, PSSC actively encouraged prospective applicants to cast their sights on South Asia, particularly India, or China, or less explored countries in Southeast Asia such as Laos and Cambodia. The research area of fellows selected in 2007 and 2008 reflected this shift. The lone awardee in 2007 went to Nepal, while the two awardees in 2008 are headed to Vietnam and Cambodia.

Filipino fellows' research projects have been equally diverse. Those in the social science fields have focused their inquiry on such topics as the phenomenon of Asian migration, environmental/natural resources policies, information and communication technologies, and national and community-based health programs. Those in the humanities and the arts, meanwhile, grappled with questions of identity as manifested/represented in the country's literature, iconography, visual art, and artistic performance.

PSSC's other main task for the AFA is the provision of assistance to foreign AFA fellows who chose the Philippines as their research site. PSSC has helped these fellows identify and connect with appropriate host institutions, arrange their housing, apply for visa extension and other immigration transactions. Since 2002, a total of nine fellows have stayed in the country and another two are coming this 2008. The 11 fellows come from six different countries, namely, India (3), Vietnam (2), China (2), Indonesia (2), Bhutan (1) and South Korea (1). They have been hosted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, and De La Salle University. Their studies have looked at various aspects of Philippine national life, society and culture, including Filipino social organizations' involvement in urban poor housing, private sector financing of higher education, health and sexuality of Filipino adolescents, NGO-Philippine government relationship, teaching through indigenous art, children's rights, local politics, and urban poverty.

- Joanne B. Agbisit



2007 Filipino AFA Fellows Chona Echavez of Xavier University's Research Institute for Mindanao Culture, and Renee Talavera of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts with PSSC Technical Section Head Joanne Agbisit and ASF's Jaruwat Kiatiwongse and Dr. Lourdes Salvador during AFA's Orientation Meeting in Bangkok, July 2008.

To PSSC, Via Siam

It was the Asian Scholarship Foundation's ASIA (Asian Studies in Asia) Fellows Program that brought me to the very doorsteps of PSSC, which is ASF's partner institute in the Philippines.

For someone who fancied poems and whose day-job was literature, the entire universe was the size of a reading room. The favored company meant Shakespeare and Europe's feisty, existential novels, the oeuvre and absinthe of the French symbolists, and reams and more reams of photocopied essays.

But even literature was changing. From Althusser to Zizek, there were Marxists and total strangers on the reading list. The buzzwords included political economy, postmodernism, and paradigm shift, with frequent references to color, class, gender, and ethnicity, a passion for global sisterhood and the riveting pride of gays and lesbians! Critics were constantly looking for the nation in the pages of literature, probing their figures of speech to be in the service of revolutions and social change, raving about allegories that buttress discourses of heroism and radical ideology, carping about how Balagtas, Rizal, and Gregoria de Jesus have soldered their modern nation into being.

In these crossroads, my own curiosity forced me out of the reading room, ready to engage public symbols (found in markets, parks, seedy strips, and weird museums) that suggest narratives of nationalism and the consolidation of national consciousness. I was ready to go street hunting, sniffing my way through symbols, deep in the recesses of new museums — of fake goods, teakwood palaces, embalmed freaks, criminals, and cut-up bodies, sequestered mansions, glass noodles, and the Asia about which I knew almost nothing.

PSSC's firm tie-up with the Asian Scholarship Foundation allowed me to go the whole hog—swearing by research interdisciplinarity, through the exciting travel and fellowship prospects offered by the ASIA Fellows Program. On a 9-month stint in Thailand, I came to spot convergences between museum objects and identity politics, between ethnicity and its figural expressions, between diverse Asian destinations and the imagination's restless desire to unite broken pockets of existence.

For me, PSSC has scored significantly in creating the institutional space that makes it possible for the meshing of disciplines. Through its expansive networks, PSSC links up with research institutions of multi-disciplinary persuasions, allowing scholars and researchers of diverse backings to collaborate in exciting fusion. And one can't just ignore such institutional feat. Decades ago, this would not have been possible at all, what with all the scholars frowning — simply calling it heresy or mere confusion.

So, it must have been foresight and liberal vision both, that guided PSSC some forty years ago, when it made up its mind to be that omnibus platform — that hallowed spot in the forking paths, where travelers of different persuasions come together, bringing, for everyone to relish, the wisdom of convergent worlds.



Danilo Francisco M. Reyes
ASIA Fellows-Philippines Cohort 8
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Philippine Migration Research Network

Producing Authoritative Work on Philippine Migration

The Philippine Migration Research Network (PMRN) was organized in February 1996, through the initiative of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), to advance knowledge and understanding of national and international migration patterns and trends, and the role of migration as a major factor in the transformation of societies. It is a loose network of about 70 individuals, both local and foreign, composed largely of social scientists and other professionals working in academe, government and non-governments organizations.

Its direct impetus was UNESCO's Management of Social Transformation (MOST) Programme under the Social and Human Sciences which aimed to promote "international comparative and policy-relevant research on contemporary social transformations and issues of global importance." In the Asia-Pacific, MOST was implemented through a project on "Increasing Migrations and Multiculturalism" carried out by the 11 member-nation Asia-Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN) of which PMRN was a founding member.

The goal of PMRN is to undertake research and produce authoritative work on Philippine migration, particularly on how it is responding to and is being transformed by the increasing migrations and the ethnocultural diversity within and across its borders, with the end in view of informing ongoing public discussions and policy-formulation on these issues.

PMRN has produced seven publications in the past 12 years including *In De Olde Worlde: Views of Filipino Migrants in Europe* (2007), *Exploring Transnational Communities in the Philippines* (2007), *Filipino Diaspora: Demography, Social Networks, Empowerment and Culture* (2003), *Filipinos in Global Migrations: At Home in the World?* (2002), *The Philippines as Home: Settlers and Sojourners in the Country* (2001), *Filipino Workers on the Move: Trends, Dilemmas and Policy Options* (1998), *Philippine Migration Studies: An Annotated Bibliography* (1998). The network also strives to hold annual assemblies and forums, and participates in migration-related conferences organized by the Philippine government, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations, including the just concluded 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development hosted by the Philippines.

PMRN is governed by an Executive Committee, which meets regularly. The core members of the network who have worked to keep PMRN dynamic and active over the years include Benjamin Cariño (UP School of Urban and Regional Planning, PMRN's first chair and first chair of the region-wide APMRN), Jorge Tigno (UP Department of Political Science), Filomeno Aguilar Jr. (Ateneo de Manila University's Department of History), Aurora de Dios (Women and Gender Institute, Miriam College), Maruja Asis (Scalabrini Center), Emma Porio (Ateneo de Manila University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology), the late Aurora Perez (UP Population Institute), Lorna Makil (PSSC), Virginia Miralao (PSSC), and myself.



PMRN officers together with Ms. Filomenita Hogsholm, editor of PMRN's 7th book *In De Olde Worlde: Views of Filipino Migrants in Europe*.

- STELLA P. GO
Chair, PMRN and
Professor, Behavioral Sciences Department
De La Salle University - Manila

Supporting population and development research through the **PCPD Graduate Fellowship** and **Research Grant Program**

After taking on the challenge of administering the Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program and the ASIA Fellows Awards, PSSC accepted an opportunity to run a local fellowship that aims to develop a pool of population and development specialists. In 2007, PSSC entered into a partnership with the Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD) for the implementation of its Graduate Fellowship and Research Grant Program. The program aims to support Filipino scholars who intend to specialize in or undertake research on population and development concerns. The program has two components: full fellowships for individuals who intend to complete a Master's or PhD program in any social science discipline; and research grants for PhD students working on population and development-related topics.

To date, PSSC has completed two rounds of selection for the graduate fellowship. Six promising individuals have been awarded the fellowship and are currently enrolled at the University of the Philippines. Of the six, four are working towards an MA in Economics, one is with the MA Demography program, and another is pursuing a Master's in Population Studies. All except one have undergraduate degrees in the social sciences, and all are young and at the beginning of their careers. PSSC expects to have its first set of graduates in 2009. This year, PSSC also awarded one PhD student a PCPD research grant of P75,000 to complete her dissertation towards a degree in sociology.

In the next few years, PSSC and PCPD shall award at least five more fellowships and research grants in support of population and development research in the country.

- *Joanne Agbisit*

When I, a fresh college graduate then, was deciding to pursue a higher degree in Economics, I had to weigh two things: on the one hand, there is my desire to significantly contribute to Philippine growth and development through research and on the other is the financial attractiveness of immediate employment and corporate work. This is a difficult tradeoff that is often faced by many aspiring researchers like me; and it is the pecuniary constraint of young professionals and the lack of government support that have often challenged the flourishing of research and development in our country. For this reason, I am very much privileged that I was given the opportunity to be a grantee of a fellowship program being administered by PSSC: The PCPD Graduate Fellowships.

Being a PCPD fellow strengthened my determination to follow my dream in the field of research. It has continuously inspired me to be fervent in the pursuit for academic progress and societal advancement in the Philippines. It has intensified my hope that we can someday be at par with our more developed neighboring countries as we continue to harness our rich intellectual resource and use it in influencing our leaders and policy-makers.

The PCPD fellowship has also led me to focus my efforts on health and development economics. When I took these population and development courses, I realized that these fields have the potential to create a positive impact on our poverty situation and may be the keys to narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor. Much has yet to be explored in these areas and so I plan to continue my research in these fields.

The challenges to research remain as major hindrances to the growth and development of our country. But the efforts of NGOs, such as the PCPD and PSSC, to support the pursuit for academic progress and societal advancement have continuously encouraged us to remain loyal to our commitment to research. May PCPD and PSSC never grow weary in all its endeavors and may its efforts be justified by our hard work.



Jo-Ann Latuja
PCPD Fellow '07
2nd Year, MA Economics
University of the Philippines - Diliman

*Memoirs
and
Remembrances*



The PSSC Years of Loretta Makasiar Sicat

GERARDO P. SICAT

Professor of Economics Emeritus,
University of the Philippines Diliman

The invitation of current PSSC Executive Director Virginia Miralao to write a piece for the 40th anniversary of PSSC gives me a chance to pay tribute to Dr. Loretta Makasiar Sicat[▼] in a personal way. This is decidedly a biased biography of her. Her story is intertwined with mine, for Loretta is my wife. Also, her story at PSSC is partly linked with some of my work at the national level. I think that Loretta has done well in her association with PSSC. Hence she deserves this story which is a significant part of the history of PSSC. If I exceed this piece's restriction limits, I do hope that, in a good way, what I write will help to fill some gaps in the history of PSSC.

Loretta's entry point to the Philippine Social Science Council was through Political Science. She discovered the rigorous Political Science program of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) when I was a student there at the Economics department. To take advantage of her excellent surroundings, she applied and received an assistantship during my second year of study. We arrived in Cambridge, Massachusetts as a couple in 1959 and began to raise our family there while I was a graduate student. When we returned to UP in 1963, our family had doubled in size and she had completed almost a full year of graduate study in Political Science at MIT, studying at three-fourths time.

Upon our return to UP, she was offered an instructor's job in the Political Science faculty. Dr. Onofre D. Corpuz, then Chairman of Political Science, recommended her for a Rockefeller study grant to

▼ Member of the Executive Board (1973-1984), Chairman (1976), and Executive Director (1977-1984), Philippine Social Science Council.

continue her PhD studies at MIT. She returned (alone) to Cambridge in early 1965 and finished her academics for the degree by 1966, returned to UP again to do her field work on the political socialization of young Filipinos for the doctoral thesis, gave birth to two babies in 1967 and in 1968, and in 1970 returned to MIT to claim her PhD. Fecund, indeed, in all respects!

I can probably say in retrospect that the easy part of our education was that we were recipients of generous scholarships to study by the Rockefeller Foundation on separate occasions for our graduate studies. The hard part of our “tuition” fees to study for our separate PhDs was the task of raising two children per degree aside from learning the disciplines of our respective fields. As one can see, a woman’s role is more difficult in that regard.

As a member and one time Chair of the UP Political Science Department and later as an active member and President of the Philippine Political Science Association, she eventually got drawn into the policy making board of PSSC. This was during the time when PSSC was still footloose, without a permanent office, always moving its venue where the chairman of PSSC held sway. Meetings were held in some rooms at the UP departments and, at times, there at the Ateneo Institute of Philippine Culture where Frank Lynch, SJ, worked.

When Loretta joined the PSSC Board, she worked with some of the country’s eminent social scientists – anthropologists, psychologists, demographers, geographers, historians, linguists, economists and statisticians. These were the pioneers who were shaping the history of social science in the country, some of whom helped to found PSSC. Part of the first generation of postwar leaders who paved the way for PSSC was still around and participating in the Board. When she joined the Board of PSSC, she found the following as members: Frank Lynch, SJ, Alfredo Lagmay, Armand Fabella, Mercedes Concepcion, Cristina Parel, Rodolfo Bulatao, Eufronio Alip, Nathaniel

Tablante, Emy Pascasio, and Abelardo Samonte. Over time, other names came into the fore – Andrew Gonzalez, Bonifacio Salamanca, Burton Oñate, Gloria Feliciano, Raul de Guzman, Vicente Valdepenas, Zelda Zablan and Consuelo Gutierrez – and still later, Domingo Salita, Leslie Bauzon, Ruben Trinidad, and Cesar Macuja. These are names that she interacted with in working on PSSC’s programs and projects. PSSC had limited resources to work with, but it had large hopes about the future.

In 1976, her peers on the PSSC Board asked her to become Chair. She must have done quite well in dealing with her work because when PSSC decided to expand its activities, her PSSC colleagues asked her to become the full time Executive Director in the following year. I recall that, at the beginning, she was not enthusiastic about the job. Once in office, she put her heart to her duties and helped to build PSSC. She would remain in this post until 1984, shortly before my departure for work abroad in another new stage of my career.

Her accomplishments at PSSC were many. But I will focus on her efforts to make PSSC a visible and permanent entity. The Board tried to strengthen the membership programs of the various social science societies. This created a demand for an office. When the relatively large Rockefeller faculty houses built for visiting professor residences became available for lease to UP professors, Loretta was quick to realize that that would give PSSC a home and an address. In such cases where demand exceeded supply enormously, quick action established strong precedent if not priority. Justifying the use of such a house for a non-profit and non-UP organization rested mainly on the fact that UP professors who worked in the PSSC were also the country’s leaders in the social sciences. So she quickly secured the lease of the house. That was the first year she had become Chair of PSSC.

Two milestones in PSSC's history happened during this time. The first was the Ford Foundation grant for the secretariat that was intended to be its last to PSSC. The second was the Japanese donation that led to the building for PSSC.

At about this time, I was occupying a cabinet portfolio in the Philippine government. I was Director General of NEDA and concurrently Minister of Economic Planning. My job included the allocation of aid resources in the Philippine economy.

The Ford Foundation was an early supporter of PSSC. Those who founded PSSC had the US Social Science Research Council as model for its organizational framework. For several years, the Ford Foundation had given seed grants to jumpstart the initial operations of PSSC. As time elapsed, some kind of weaning process became inevitable. Then also, the Ford Foundation was experiencing aid-fatigue. It was also in search of new activities in the country and new programs in Southeast Asia. Also, its program finances were on the wane.

One day, Dr. John Cool,* then the Ford Foundation official in charge of the Philippine country projects, paid me a visit at NEDA. It was customary for such officials to call on government officials largely to inform them about what their foundations were doing in the country. The charitable foundations, unlike government aid donors, dealt with their own clientele with little state intervention as a matter of government policy. But it was essential for the foundations to demonstrate where and how they directed their resources.

Perhaps because John Cool knew that the Executive Director of PSSC was Loretta, he mentioned in the course of his summary of the foundation's projects that the Ford Foundation

was to give a final grant to the secretariat of PSSC. This led to a little more discussion on the history of that involvement with PSSC as it aroused my curiosity. I noted that what Ford Foundation had planned to do to close their involvement seemed small, and that as a grant to spend the money it would naturally be disbursed and dissipated as the need arose and as time passed. Thus, it gave only temporary relief. I therefore hit upon the thought that perhaps more resources could be appropriated so that the secretariat could have more financial resources that it could then invest and let to grow. In time this would provide some earnings to pay off secretariat expense. I recall saying that if Ford Foundation could raise the amount to a more substantial sum and release the money in one lump sum, then the government could commit more money to double the Ford grant.

This off-the-cuff remark had to be backed up by actual deed. Without telling him how I would do it, I had a working plan. With the approval of the President of the Philippines, I could channel some resources within my powers as NEDA Director General to sign on to help the Ford Foundation grant to PSSC. I could ask the USAID Director to channel some PL 480 money which was cash generated from Philippine purchases of US agricultural food aid to be used for the purpose. Therefore, I spoke with great confidence that I could deliver on the counterpart support. I was also not appropriating any money from the budget — which would have been difficult to do. At the end of that meeting, John Cool and I shook hands on the proposal to raise the Ford grant. I put the ball in the hands of the Ford Foundation. As overseer of Philippine projects, Cool was to persuade his headquarters to raise the grant that had been already programmed for PSSC.

* Since I am recalling from memory, my guess was that it was John Cool who came to see me. But it could have been also Peter Geithner, who was the head for projects and programs affecting the Philippines, in the New York headquarters of Ford Foundation.

I would not have made this immediate suggestion without first hand knowledge of PSSC's value in harnessing the intellectual resources of the social science disciplines. The periodic conversations that Loretta and I had over dinner and other occasions were therefore valuable in this regard. Loretta was not the attention grabber that some wives nag their spouses about. But she would always succinctly tell me about the unique problems that PSSC faced. They were formidable. They were undertaking some small projects in helping social science activities and promoting coordinative efforts among the societies and preparing programs to be of continuous service and relevance to the Philippine societies. But the organization was immensely challenged by lack of resources. Poverty in resources also meant becoming invisible rather than prominent. An essential strength of any organization in raising money is often its financial stability. Such a public face was missing. A large begging bowl is often not a proper method in attracting resources from potential donors.

Thus, through my conversations with Loretta, I had become aware of the activities and problems of PSSC, as if by osmosis. So when I told her of the John Cool visit and what we had agreed to do to help PSSC, it was an understatement to say that she was immensely pleased. She must have figured out what new activities such assistance could bring, including some measure of financial relief at least for the meantime. The rest of the effort then fell on Loretta and others at PSSC to influence Ford Foundation to raise the amount of the final grant for the secretariat work of PSSC. She succeeded.

About two decades ago, Dr. Bonifacio Salamanca of the UP History Department was commissioned to write the history of PSSC up to

that time.** He paid attention to this important episode. Loretta explained to him those events to clarify the matter and provided specific documentation of this, including the photocopy of the handwritten note of President Marcos on the decision memorandum of NEDA when he consented to the donation of government resources to PSSC because it was a private organization with a public purpose.

The second big event of PSSC is the story of how the Japanese government made a donation to house the social sciences societies in one building. Perhaps, this is the first time that some details in this episode are made public. Sometime in the late 1970s, Japanese development assistance program added a grant program toward the building of facilities that contributed to a recipient country's human resources development. This arose out of Prime Minister Ohira's innovation in Japan's aid program. This was a unique deviation from Japan's traditional programs of soft loans and other technical assistance programs for economic development purposes. This new element in the aid program was precisely to support the building of physical facilities used for human resources development. Its best feature was that it was grant assistance and that it did not require intricate discussions of counterpart funding. The Japanese government totally financed the building and contributed donation of equipment besides. But it was a tied grant.

I instructed my NEDA staff to include the building of a social sciences center among the items to be included in the yearly pipeline for this phase of Japanese assistance. The Japanese government was very receptive to the idea during the technical level discussions. The process of aid identification begins at the technical level and moves up to higher-level approvals in the normal

**Bonifacio S. Salamanca, "The Philippine Social Science Council: The First 25 Years," *PSSC Social Science Information* special issue, Vol. 23, Nos. 3-4.

bureaucratic course of things. Soon, joint communiqués on the yearly assistance programs included the PSSC building in the pipeline and had high priority.

Loretta worked with PSSC on the concept of a permanent building. She met with the Japanese aid representatives when talk about the prospects for the building became more advanced. Loretta argued that a permanent building would give a true home to the many social science societies of the country. PSSC would be in a better position to help strengthen these societies and reinforce their sense of mission. When the aid program had advanced approval stage, she got busy with the work on the building concepts. Such a facility would provide offices and conference rooms of different sizes to meet the needs of the Philippine societies when they had conferences. Part of the offices could be rented to provide income to PSSC. Thus, instead of hobbling the organization with huge maintenance costs, such a building would help provide PSSC with physical assets that could generate income while performing its public tasks. That could then help to make the society self-sustaining financially as well as boost its programs. Loretta brought this issue up to the Board and the idea became a major goal of PSSC. It was one thing to plan it but the resource had to be provided. With the Japanese grant assistance, it was to become reality.

For my part and through NEDA, it was a matter of getting the list of agreed projects to move forward. The aid projects from Japan were extensive and they were agreed on the basis of a list that was approved by the President of the Philippines. It was important to get the Japanese aid foreign ministry to agree to that list. Also it was important that the government did not change the components in the project list. That could happen. As the bureaucratic process of continuous iterations took its normal course, it was important to maintain vigilance at the home front. Sometimes – lo and behold! – someone with

political clout could ambush and displace a project while no one was keeping watch. In the case of the PSSC building project, all went well quickly however on the approval side between the two governments.

The award and prosecution of aid projects could take time, caused by unexpected delays. From this viewpoint, the human resources building project for PSSC moved relatively quickly once the preliminaries of land location, plans for the building, and other contractual matters were finished. As tied aid, these programs were fully built by the Japanese government and it was Japanese government process at work: choosing their architects and their contractors. It was therefore important that specifications for the project had to be done with the recipient institutions, and that meant work for Loretta and PSSC. The specifications, requirements and design for the building had to be undertaken. These issues were not trivial for PSSC.

And Loretta was immersed fully in this work. Her attention to detail not only included the design, orientation of the building, but also what amenities to put in. When she went to Japan on the invitation of the aid program offices, she was glad to find the scale model of the building already finished and that the construction schedules were already firm. The concepts that she and others had suggested concerning the design and structure of the building when the Japanese project engineers and architects visited in Manila had been substantially integrated into the plan. She had wanted to bring down the cost of building maintenance and the need to properly orient the building to make maximum use of sunlight and airflow.

Air conditioning would be essentially individualized, not centralized. Moreover, on details that seemed minor, she was emphatic. For instance, because she understood the problem, she saw to it that a ramp for the entry into the building of the physically disabled was properly

planned. When the landscape seller of materials and plants that had been squatting on the site posed a threat to the construction start, she suggested ways for the Japanese contractor to expedite the process. The Japanese contractor paid fair compensation and the squatter hurriedly cooperated with the removal of the impediments.

Of course, the most important prior problem before construction could begin was to secure the land site. This had to be settled long before the work on the building would proceed. The only assets that PSSC owned were its office equipment, which was minimal. It had no land. To secure that land for the construction posed some legal and proprietary obstacles on the part of the potential donors.

At the beginning, there was debate in the Board where to locate the building. At first, the idea of locating it on private land – away from the dominant influence of UP and of Ateneo – was an attractive idea. But who would give private land for a non-profit activity like PSSC? The Ateneans (perhaps the gentle Frank Lynch, SJ might have favored this at the time, although during this time he had already passed away) would have preferred that the building be located outside the UP and possibly in Ateneo. This would avoid the impression that PSSC was like an extension of a UP social sciences department. The idea of Ateneo yielding land for PSSC was a question that Vicente Jayme, who was then on the Board, would explore with the Ateneo authorities. There were debates on the pros and cons of this at that end.

I think that Loretta could accept the long term prospect of independence of PSSC from dominance by UP as a sound idea. In that way, the social sciences would develop in a more inclusive “national” manner. But how was one to execute this within the framework of a private building in private or non-government land if there was no privately made available land on which to construct the building? It was a great fallacy that PSSC being located in UP would automatically imply UP dominance. In the end, the social sciences would grow strong where the institutions of learning and of research made that



Groundbreaking Ceremony for the
Philippine Social Science Center,
31 May 1982.

possible. PSSC, was in the end, mainly a receptacle of the collective achievements of each and every social science discipline wherever it grew and developed.

In the final analysis, the only good and practical option was to locate in UP. Ateneo's authorities found it difficult to give up land that it could use for Ateneo's own future growth. And then, there were many issues of local and institutional conflict of laws that intruded, including the matter of local taxes, and the length and renewal status of the land lease.

Within UP, the matter was not smooth, as well. For despite UP's abundance of land, the problem of PSSC's standing as a private, non-profit institution came back to the fundamental issue about the private use of public resources. The President of UP then was O.D. Corpuz and he understood as well the needs of PSSC. But UP could not just sever land and donate it. Long term lease was the only alternative but that was not necessarily assured. In the end, the argument that the social sciences working with PSSC included many UP social scientists in the country who were preeminent in the national scene and PSSC deserved UP assistance to advance the social sciences. It helped that many distinguished members of PSSC were also very much respected scholars within the UP system. Definitely, it helped that Loretta assiduously promoted the idea that UP could lease a plot of land for PSSC because it was an institution, although private in its nature, that had a public purpose.

In this sense, the words that President Ferdinand Marcos wrote on the decision memorandum of NEDA when he approved the idea of donating public money to counterpart the Ford Foundation grant was significant in the further growth of PSSC. Finally, it also helped that during this critical period I was a member of the UP Board of Regents.

Despite her work and dedication to PSSC, Lor (I now use her preferred nickname among family and friends) always understood clearly where her priorities stood. Those who have dealt with her know that she was a quiet but effective worker, assertive in her own way but never intrusive nor difficult. She was in a way shy in that she seldom pressed her ideas unnecessarily. When confronted with difficult issues, one could easily tell how she stood on those issues by the questions that she asked. In her prime, she was a good communicator and a patient one who tried to steer decisions to her side without being unpleasant and pushy. She was Chair of the UP Political Science Department in her mid-term when I was appointed (in addition to my national duties) to become a member of the Board of Regents. Immediately she tendered her resignation as Chair because as an administrative officer of the College she felt she was, ultimately, held directly under the supervision of the Board of Regents. She remained in the faculty, but she resigned her administrative post. She had that fine trait of *delicadeza* that is rare in such cases.

It was probably PSSC's good luck to harness her services at about that time. In her position, she was working for something bigger than her own social science discipline. There were no barriers of the personal sort that was posed in her job at PSSC, a non-profit institution designed to promote the progress of the nation's social sciences.

Recently this month, my children and Lor celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in nuclear family dinner. And here as I end this essay, I talk of Lor's qualities that I had enjoyed over the years in the past tense. The stroke that she suffered three years ago had sapped away many of the abilities that she was very good at. Those qualities helped me immensely as a person and as an economist. She was my superb testing ground for ideas. She was an eloquent and perceptive debater on any issue – significant or

inconsequential, world-changing or trivial – that we engaged in intermittently over the years of our married life. As all our children have noted during their growing years, two discussing PhDs provided a prescription for a noisy and sometimes contentious and impromptu classroom before their eyes. She was a great listener who could distinguish between good or foolish ideas as well as between substantial and shallow people. She modulated me although she did not succeed fully. For me, she would always put aside her own work to make my English more clear and my thoughts wiser.



Dr. Loretta Makasiar Sicat and Dr. Gerardo P. Sicat are joined by colleagues from the Philippine Political Science Association during the rededication of PSSC's Loretta Makasiar Sicat Boardroom, 17 August 2007.



Behind the Scenes: My Years with the Secretariat



LORNA P. MAKIL
First Section Head,
Technical Services and
Information Section
up to 2002

When my family relocated from Dumaguete to Quezon City in 1980, I worried about my career for I realized that finding a good teaching job would not be easy. I wanted my professional life to continue in an academic environment.

I need not have worried for I found myself with the PSSC Secretariat which gave me opportunity to meet and work with leading Filipino social scientists of the time until my retirement in 2002. This piece will talk about the work of the PSSC staff, highlighting some of the changes and developments that we experienced during some of the exciting times of the Council.

I joined PSSC when it was still renting one of the cottages in Purok Aguinaldo, UP Diliman. Dr. Loretta Makasiar-Sicat was Executive Director, Dr. Pilar Ramos-Jimenez, Program Coordinator, was my immediate supervisor. There were nine staff members besides us, and we fitted quite well in the rooms of that cottage. The sala, with a large rectangular table, was used for Committee and Board meetings and also served as a starting library of a few books, magazines and other journals lined up on low shelves against the walls. There was a kitchen where we took our merienda breaks and lunch. We were like family then, and our interaction with each other was very personal. Occasionally, we would go out as a group after office hours for a dinner blow-out, piling into the PSSC vehicle as driver Marcial, to no avail, would plead with us that *"masisira na ang kotse."*

Providing the day-to-day backstopping and support for the Council kept us busy, especially during Board meetings when minutes and reports had to be reproduced and collated. Brother Andrew Gonzalez, linguist, was on the Board, and we always tried to order a good lunch when they met for he was a gourmet and would not hesitate to tell us if the food was not up to his standards.

It was only many years later that I realized I had grown old with many of these important men and women of the social science community who I first met in their youthful (and more physically attractive) years. I was to see some of them cross to the great beyond, a few sadly, before their time.

“The PSSC Agenda for the 1980s” was drafted and approved in those early years of the 80s in various consultations and meetings with leading social scientists (i.e., officers of the professional member organizations of PSSC). One of the final meetings took place on a stormy day at the Central Bank building in Manila, courtesy of economist Dr. Manuel S. Alba. I remember this very well because it was the first storm I was to experience living in Manila (Dumaguete lies below the typhoon belt and is rarely, if even, visited by *bagyo*). It was not easy to travel from Quezon City to Manila in the pouring rain, and so early in the morning for us in the Secretariat. I found it strange that people had to brave the weather just to discuss a piece of document as the “PSSC Agenda”. As expected, many came late, and wet, to the meeting. It ended well, and I observed that social scientists as a group can be single-minded about an issue although they may have varying positions at the start. PSSC had a general plan for the future to play a greater advocacy role and to be taken more seriously by government agencies in their work of policy making and program planning.

The 80s were exciting times for the Secretariat. In March 1983, we moved to our new home at the PSSCenter along then Don Mariano M. Marcos Avenue (which, after EDSA, reclaimed its more

appropriate present name—Commonwealth Avenue), feeling strange in a place where there was so much space after years in the Purok Aguinaldo house. We wondered if the Frank Lynch SJ Library, constituting an entire wing on the second floor, would even have its fill of library materials (we could do ballroom dancing there if we wanted to).

Eight months after moving to our new PSSC home, the first National Social Science Congress (NSSC) was held. Such a large gathering had to be prepared for efficiently; that was our “baptism” in hosting large conferences. Previously, we dealt with smaller gatherings, like the annual membership meetings attended by 50 or so people. We got our act together, and the Congress was considered a big success.

While the First NSSC focused on the state of the Philippine social sciences, the events that followed the assassination of Ninoy Aquino that year also influenced much of the discussions. The Congress launched new programs in response to these concerns, like the “Kapihan sa PSSC”, later renamed “Ugnayan sa PSSC” and the PSSC Forum Series. A Social Issues Committee was formed by the Council to plan these activities. New members of the Secretariat were hired with skills for the invitation and coordination of speakers and audiences, as well as the documentation and writing up of discussions. Young college graduates were being hired, as compared to the earlier hiring of secretarial graduates, clerks, and accountants/bookkeepers in the Council.

When the Council decided to hold a National Opinion Survey in 1985 of people’s thinking on social issues, one or two research assistants were also added to the staff. The nation-wide survey of over 8,000 respondents involved the whole PSSC Secretariat. While data analysis and writing of research data were to be done by professional social scientists, the Secretariat was tasked to manage the gathering and processing of research data. Sometimes the task seemed overwhelming

as we tried to meet deadlines, working late into the night. Fortunately for us, help came by way of romance. One of our pretty research assistants had a faithful admirer who would come to help us (and to bring food!) at night. He worked with a research outfit and knew what to do. When they finally married, we all turned up to cheer their union.

The EDSA event in 1986 brought more challenges for advocacy and action at PSSC. If these activities excited our social scientists, these were received with some trepidation by the Secretariat who felt they were being flooded by many activities and concerns which the Council wanted to pursue. We found it harder and harder, for example, to invite people to attend our forums at PSSC because similar events were being held simultaneously by other organizations, and civil society was also organizing their own panel discussions and lectures. It got to the point when we would resort to the "*hakot*" system of bringing individuals to the event, like our companions in the Secretariat whom we could entice to leave their desks for a while (never mind if they were not really interested in the topic), and our friends among the PSSCenter tenants upstairs also asked us for the same favor when it was their turn to host a public forum of their own. Amidst all of these activities, "audience fatigue" seemed to have set in, even among our social scientists who had planned the activities in the first place.

The Second NSSC was held in 1988, and the experience of the First NSSC guided us in preparing better for the event, although we still struggled with delays and unfulfilled promises from some professionals to submit their papers on time. On the eve of the Congress opening, we were working overtime to finish the conference kits when bad news hit — the printed programmes would not be finished on time because we had submitted the draft after the deadline given by the press. Fighting panic, we pleaded personally with the man in charge to do something please,

please, please! To his credit, and to our eternal gratitude, he mobilized the printing press men with free San Miguel beer to work through the night and finish the job at dawn in time for delivery, well before the congress doors opened at 9:00 am the following morning. The success of the Second NSSC assured us that we could run conferences quite well for local groups, including the post-conference publication of papers.

The Third NSSC in 1993 saw us more assured. We were able to mobilize more participants from the provinces to attend, the sessions were well-prepared for, the function rooms set up, and the discussion and plenary leaders all present. But perfection is hard to attain. We realized that we did not have nameplates for the speakers of the last plenary ten minutes before they were to start. We quickly looked for the staff whose computer printed the other names — she was taking a break at the canteen. "Drop everything — hurry upstairs to your computer!" Once printed, we rushed back to the Auditorium to insert the names into the wooden nameplates and hurriedly distributed them on the tables in front of the speakers who were already seated and about to begin. "Oh no, *baliktad* — wrong name — exchange, exchange, with the person next to him!" Such a small but important detail.

As the functions of PSSC gradually expanded to include regional linkages with social science institutions and scholars, the Secretariat also learned to have a sense of these intellectual contacts, widening their perspectives and encouraging them to improve their skills. The Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (ASSREC) in 1991 held its biennial conference at the PSSCenter. The UP Asian Institute of Tourism Hotel was still in business — it was convenient to house the delegates in this facility next door. PSSC put its best foot forward and hosted the event well enough that it earned ASSREC's trust and was designated as its regional Secretariat for the next 12 years. The job entailed

the management of ASSREC funds, communications with member-councils, preparations for the biennial conferences which were hosted alternately by other member-councils in their own countries, and the publication of ASSREC Conference Papers.

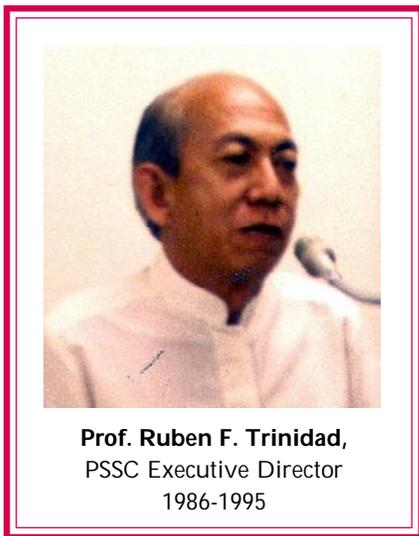
The PSSC Executive Director during the post-EDSA years was Prof. Ruben F. Trinidad (we called him RFT, by his initials), a statistician who was a fatherly and approachable man. He worked for the gradual increase in the salaries of the staff. It was he who allowed us to try our hand in running the PSSC Canteen when we had to let our concessionaire go and there was no immediate replacement. A few in our staff believed they had an eye for business, and they were persuasive that the rest of us agreed, including RFT and members of the Board, to manage the Canteen on a short trial basis. At first things went well, mainly because the canteen did not have many customers daily. But the day arrived when we had to provide service for the annual meeting of the Philippine Statistical Association, and we failed miserably, to the great shame of RFT because he had assured his association that things would be in order. The mid-morning snacks were delayed (the *empanada* was delivered late, and we could not open the pop bottles fast enough because we only had two

bottle openers, one of them so old and ready to be thrown away). Lunch was likewise delayed — our buffet system met with hitches that we, in our lack of experience, had not anticipated. We joined forces after lunch to wash dishes and help the harassed kitchen assistant. We lingered through the afternoon merienda, and by the end of the day, we were so tired, weary and humbled. We never interfered again in the running of the PSSCenter Canteen.

When Prof. Trinidad retired after serving for 10 years, the Council searched for a replacement. Prof. Ponciano Bennagen, anthropologist, became the next Executive Director. He was much younger than RFT, and he met us in sessions that made us study the organization of the Secretariat and how individual roles and duties were helping, or not helping, meet the expectations others held of PSSC. He also encouraged us to have team building exercises. But he was more of a scholar and researcher than an administrator who would deal with such matters as the physical maintenance of the PSSCenter and the problems of the tenants. Understandably, he did not stay long with us.

After Dr. Virginia A. Miralao assumed the role of Executive Director, more activities happened in PSSC, testing our skills as Secretariat. There seemed to be more projects to backstop, more agencies and people to deal with, more meetings to prepare for and attend, more conferences to manage, and more personal aggravations to hurdle. Indeed, it was a time of further growth and development for us.

The professionalization of the Secretariat has continued under her. Early in her administration, she worked for substantial salary increases and a system of benefits for the staff. She is a hands-on administrator and leads the Secretariat with a firm guiding hand. It has not been always easy to work under her scrutiny and to accept some of her decisions for change, but it is not easy either not to respect her for her professional leadership.





Attention to details and accuracy, pride in one's work, and a feeling of not only serving but also of belonging to the social science community, with all its strengths and weaknesses, are lessons which many members of the Secretariat have learned under Dr. Miralao's watch.

Before I left PSSC in 2002, Dr. Miralao and the staff, then PSSC Chair Ronnie Holmes and members of the Board prepared a short program and reception in my honor. The events of the 80s and 90s and the start of the new Millennium while I was working at PSSC filled my thoughts that night. I was grateful for everything, and my wish for my friends who were staying on was that they continue to serve at PSSC with commitment and with joy as they work behind the scenes. Those were real good years for me. It can also be for them.

Remembering PSSC's Early Research Training Programs



PILAR RAMOS-JIMENEZ
PSSC Research Network
Coordinator, 1974-1981

PSSC has played an important role in shaping the career of many social scientists and researchers including mine through its Ford-Foundation funded Summer Social Science Research Training Program in the seventies. Three well-known research institutions partnered in enhancing the social research skills of the faculty from 25 selected colleges and universities outside Metro Manila. The Institute of Philippine Culture of Ateneo de Manila University, the UP Population Institute, and UP Statistical Center, the three premier research institutions at that time, spearheaded this major endeavor. IPC's Frank Lynch, Mary Racelis, and Perla Makil, UPPI's Dean Mercedes Concepcion and her dynamic staff, and UPSC's Dean Cristina Parel and enthusiastic statistics professors developed survey and qualitative research training manuals based on their grounded experiences from doing national surveys and in studying rural and urban communities. The participating tertiary institutions established small research units as part of their commitment to this program, sent their participating faculty to three summer training seminars, and participated in PSSC-initiated national surveys and other research projects. The faculty-trainees also agreed to teach social research in their schools. These research units became PSSC's Research Network that was vital in building a critical mass of social researchers in the various regions.

I was one of the first 10 trainees from five academic institutions in 1972. The five institutions

then were Ateneo de Davao, Notre Dame University of Cotabato, San Carlos University, Ateneo de Naga, and Central Philippine University of Iloilo. I was a new sociology faculty and the chair of Ateneo de Davao College (now a university) then. Teresita Angeles and I were the young and eager faculty who were sent by Father Ma. Miguel Varela, our Rector at that time. Although I had a sociology master's degree when I joined Ateneo de Davao, the social research training that I received from PSSC's summer program was much more attuned to the realities of the field. I recall mapping and interviewing households of Zoto members in Tondo and shuttling from Ateneo de Manila campus to Padre Faura for our courses in statistics and demography. It was very demanding, and it taught me the value of team work as we did all our exercises. I recall late nights at Ateneo's Cervini Hall, discussing with new colleagues about our different assignments. I was amazed at the patience and dedication of Father Lynch, Mary Racelis, and Perla Makil as well as UPPI and UPSC's faculty including their staff in guiding out-of-townners like us.

Lulu Angeles and I returned to Ateneo de Davao and established the Social Research Office (SRO). We received a valuable set of social research books and the first calculator from PSSC which we proudly showed off to other faculty and administrators! Now I am proud to say that ADDU's Social Research Office is the leading research institution in Davao and it is

coordinating the Mindanao Working Group for Reproductive Health, Gender and Sexuality — a network of academic institutions and civil society organizations that are engaged in training, research, advocacy and it has received grants not only from Ford Foundation but from other donors as well. It is operated by second and third generation social scientists who are engaged in academic and action research including advocacy for social justice, poverty reduction, gender equality and equity. It recently organized an international conference on gender and conflict bringing together around 200 participants from the Global South to share research and action programs in this arena.

I became PSSC Research Network Coordinator in 1974 after joining two summer training programs. Networking was a new term for me at that time and Father Lynch who became my immediate boss, patiently oriented me to the tasks of training, negotiating with donors and research agencies, and coordinating the different research units. The Network was an infant when Father Lynch died. I can still recall his last call after 10 p.m. on September 28, 1978, a few hours before he died, asking for someone's article. It was like asking me to carry on with what he started. And so I stayed with PSSC until 1982.

The Research Network moved forward by forming regional research consortia to create partnerships among the faculty of the research units and to build their skills to implement their own studies. It was also intended to build the credibility of the provincial researchers and to

create demand for their services from government agencies and other entities. It was a daunting task to assure the foregoing groups that there were provincial social scientists who could do research for them because of the high regard and dependence on Metro Manila-based social researchers at that time. Lorna Makil who was from Silliman University and a second (or third) batch social research summer trainee, joined PSSC to help us design and implement the research consortia's projects. I recall how Ford Foundation's Representative Dr. John Cool, an anthropologist like Father Lynch, and Dr. Pedro Flores of the International Development Research Center of Canada patiently guided us in designing the research consortia. Their donor institutions subsequently funded this project. There were two research consortia — one in the Visayas and one in Eastern & Southern Mindanao.

In implementing the consortia projects, technical assistance was provided by a team of young (then) PhDs — Ricardo Abad, Ernesto Pernia, Manuel Diaz, and Cayetano Paderanga. They spent hours in Mindanao and in the Visayas assisting the consortia teams in their research on regional poverty. The consortia teams were able to write reports that were

presented to regional and national agencies and at national and international conferences.

My years at PSSC were memorable. I had the privilege of working with the best social scientists in the country who were so committed and passionate in the work they did for the Council: Fr. Lynch, then Executive Director Loretta Makasiar-Sicat, Dr. Vicente Valdepeñas, Dr. Wilfrido Villacorta, and Brother Andrew among others. I also worked with a most dedicated Secretariat staff – among them too, Sylvia Tan, Marcial Frias, Elvie Angeles, Cely Fampo who worked late nights and weekends in PSSC's small rented offices outside and within UP campus. I must mention that I was privileged also to join the first exchange visit made by our social scientists to China and Vietnam in 1980. I was there too to welcome the first Chinese social scientists who subsequently visited our country.

I am pleased that I played some part in PSSC's 40-year history. My experience there helped me become a better teacher at De La Salle University for over 20 years. PSSC's institutionalization is the outcome of the collective effort of many dedicated social scientists and secretariat personnel. My best wishes to PSSC's current staff and officers. God bless.



*Reflections
and Messages
of PSSC Chairs*



A Promise Fulfilled

MERCEDES B. CONCEPCION

Chair, Executive Board,
1968-1973

Little did that small group — invited in March 1967 by Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim, then Chairperson of the Social and Human Sciences Committee of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines to “consider and reactivate the National Social Science Council of the Philippines” — foresee that their efforts would turn PSSC into a full blown social science organization with a strong commitment and dedication to academic excellence.

Looking back at the first meeting and the train of events that were set in motion by Dr. Aldaba-Lim, there is no doubt that she was the catalyst to PSSC’s birth. We must credit her for (1) her active involvement in earlier meetings of the Working Committee, the First Council General Meeting and subsequent Executive Board Meetings; (2) her efforts at boosting the image of PSSC at UNESCO, Paris and other international fora; (3) nurturing PSSC at the UNESCO National Commission; and (4) hosting the final session of the first Southeast Asian Workshop of Social Scientists in 1976, while working simultaneously as Secretary of Social Work and Development and ex-officio Chair of the Commission on Population (POPCOM).

The efforts of the Working Committee Chair, Dr. Eufronio Alip, and its members: then DECS Secretary Armand Fabella, Fr. Frank Lynch SJ, Atty. Serafin Guingona and Petronilo Buan in formulating the constitution and by-laws of the organization and in the election of the officers, must also be acknowledged.

On 18 March 1968, representatives of the member-associations held the first formal meeting of the Executive Board, electing the officers and thus, marking the formal launching of PSSC as a “non-stock, non-profit, non-governmental, and non-sectarian organization for scientific, cultural and educational purposes.”



PSSC pioneers and stalwarts, Fr. Jaime Bulatao, SJ, Dr. Mercedes B. Concepcion, Fr. John Carroll, SJ, Dr. Gelia T. Castillo, Dr. Josefa Saniel and Dean Ofelia R. Angangco during the Re-opening of PSSC's renovated Mercedes B. Concepcion Seminar Room on 15 May 2007.

Actively supporting the initial twelve special projects/programs were the Asia Foundation, the Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE), the Ford Foundation, and the National Science Development Board, among others.

With the expansion of the work programme and the corresponding increase in personnel and equipment, it became clear that PSSC needed a building of its own. A special Social Science Center Committee was established under the chairmanship of Dr. Alfredo Lagmay, and later Dr. Loretta M. Sicat, to consider a suitable location for the proposed Center. After some years of deliberation, the Committee selected a site proposed by UP President Emmanuel V. Soriano along Commonwealth Avenue, beside the Asian Institute of Tourism. The Japanese Government was approached for funds and in an exchange of diplomatic notes in July 1981, the Japanese Government granted US\$5.6 million for the construction of a Philippine Social Science Center and for some equipment. Formal turnover ceremonies to the UP and PSSC did not take place until 16 May 1983, some 15 years after the launching of the Council.

Throughout these four decades, the combined efforts of that first small band of social scientists and members of the various committees that undertook programs developed by the first Executive Board and its subsequent editions, and the leadership of the various Executive Directors together with the Secretariat, have strengthened and institutionalized the Council into what it is now. Indeed, it has become the acknowledged leading social science organization not only in the Philippines but in the Asian region as well. The Philippine Social Science Council is a monument to the trust placed on PSSC not only by the social science organizations but also by various funding agencies.

Remembering PSSC of the 1980s



CAROLINA G. HERNANDEZ
Chair, Executive Board,
1986

Serving the Philippine Social Science Council in the 1980s as Chair of its Executive Board has been not only a distinct privilege, but also a rich and rewarding experience. In those days, the functions of the office included immersion in the Council's outreach program, seeking to develop social science research capacity in regions outside "Imperial Manila." I consider this as the most psychologically and intellectually rewarding aspect of my work. In many ways, it shaped my post-PSSC mission to expand capacity beyond the limited terrain of my discipline and institutional affiliation, and to share opportunities for professional growth with which I have been so generously showered.

Looking back to this dimension of the PSSC mandate, it might be asked if it helped the emergence of highly competent researchers and teachers in various fields of the Social Sciences from outside "Imperial Manila," given that, these days, this former "center" does not look so "imperial" anymore. Surely this is a development about which all of us associated with PSSC, particularly its outreach program, should feel elated. The presence of professional social science capacity across the country must have some positive impact on bridging research and policy for national progress and development.

Because the PSSC of the 1980s lived within the political environment of martial law and authoritarian rule, its staff reflected a range of political affiliations and alliances from across the political spectrum. There were those identified with the Marcos government and those whose ties and ideological orientations were with various groups within the broad range of opposition actors. This made for political and social pluralism that enrich critical thinking, dialogue, and tolerance.



Dr. Hernandez with Executive Director Ruben Trinidad swearing in discipline representatives to the PSSC Executive Board.

The end of the Marcos regime saw PSSC organizing various roundtable discussions that dealt with the multi-dimensional problems of the nation. The results were fed into the agenda-setting process during the political transition. PSSC contributed warm bodies to various groups seeking to put the country and its governance mechanism back on a “democratic” track. I wonder what many among us who honestly and seriously thought our efforts then would make some difference in our country’s future now think.

The 1980s was also a time when PSSC reached across the region to join other social scientists particularly from Indonesia and Thailand to exchange visits, conduct joint activities, and in general build regional social science networks. These occasions brought many of us to ancient and cultural sites in Northern Thailand and historic places in Indonesia as part of serious academic exchanges regarding the state of the social sciences in our respective societies as well as the burning political and social issues of the times.

While the PSSCenter was built during the Marcos years, those were lean years for PSSC’s drive to generate income from the facility’s numerous office spaces. Other than those reserved for the various professional social science

organizations that constituted the Council, its office spaces remained largely unoccupied. Thus, income from rentals constituted a small portion of its funds and budget. The growth of policy research organizations seeking office spaces came with regime change following People Power 1. PSSC benefited from this development through the opening of the office rental market, including near the UP Campus in Diliman. The PSSCenter began to attract clients from various academic and policy advocacy fields. Its largest client during this market opening was the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

The relocation of PSSC’s first Executive Director to Washington, DC marked a significant era in the Council’s institutional development. The search for her successor necessitated the adoption of a process that sought to be open, transparent, inclusive, and collegial. It was this process that has led to the selection of two successive Executive Directors, including the incumbent. With more than two turn-overs in this office, the process has perhaps become institutionalized to the extent that highly qualified nominees are certain to be found in the event of future vacancies. If nothing else, this constitutes an important legacy from those of us who served PSSC in the 1980s.

An Activist PSSC



PATRICIA B. LICUANAN
Chair, Executive Board,
1987

How is a senior like me expected to remember twenty years ago when I served as Chair of the PSSC? It is not too difficult to remember the general gestalt of the times and the task—challenging, demanding, innovative, activist, collegial, and yes, good lunches at meetings! But the specifics needed some archival assistance.

The heady days following the collapse of the Marcos dictatorship marked the beginning of an extremely difficult process of political transformation for the Philippines. With the years of dictatorship behind us, we were brought face to face with yet another crisis or challenge—that of transition from authoritarian rule to democracy. PSSC was deeply aware that Philippine social scientists, individually and collectively, had an important role to play in understanding the problems of transition and offering possible solutions. PSSC, as the official voice of Philippine social scientists, felt the responsibility to respond to the pains of transition.

Given this mandate and this challenge, PSSC worked very hard. Much of the work remained in staple areas of research and training, information dissemination, professionalization and institutional linkages. But a major part of PSSC activity at that time was in the area of advocacy. We set up a Speakers Bureau to facilitate the accessibility of social science expertise and information through a pool of social scientists who could be invited as resource speakers to symposia and similar activities. We



sponsored a Symposium Series and we drafted position papers. Through these structures we addressed issues such as agrarian reform, human rights, vigilantes, low intensity conflict, military coup attempts, the Mendiola massacre, government reorganization, elections.

The Council also formulated guidelines for selecting candidates for public office in connection with the upcoming national elections and these were published in major daily newspapers. PSSC also actively campaigned for the ratification of the 1987 Constitution through radio and computer art television materials, bumper stickers and buttons which carried the Council's "Yes" stand. It also submitted a position paper to the UP Search Committee and the UP Board of Regents on the manner of choosing the next UP President, appealing for the observance of the democratic process in the selection.

With the approaching review of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement, PSSC deemed it important that relevant, useful and nationalist-oriented information about the bases be made available to national policy-makers and key decision-makers, and to the Filipino people, in general. The Council thus drew up a proposal for "A Comprehensive Study on the United States Military Facilities in the Philippines."

Indeed those were exciting and challenging times for PSSC and the Council played an activist role that carried over from the dictatorship years. Perhaps that role is again called for today.



PSSC: Flourishing through the Years

MA. CYNTHIA ROSE
B. BAUTISTA

Chair, Executive Board,
January - March 1988

I have been extremely privileged to witness the evolution of the Philippine Social Science Council from a distance and up close. PSSC came to my awareness in the early 1970s when my professor Rodolfo Bulatao, for whom I worked as research assistant, returned to the University of the Philippines' Social Research Laboratory, enthused over the stimulating discussions with the pillars of social science and the promise of more social science research under the Council.

I would not work directly with PSSC, however, until more than a decade later, when, upon my return from my doctoral studies in 1983, Sylvia Guerrero would request me to help the Executive Board build the Eastern Mindanao Research Consortium (Ateneo de Davao University, Notre Dame University in Cotabato, Cor Jesu College in Digos, and Urios College in Butuan) and the Visayas Research Consortium (Silliman University in Dumaguete, Central Philippine University in Iloilo, University of San Carlos in Cebu, and La Salle College in Bacolod).

My involvement with the consortia gradually intensified from being an occasional speaker in training seminars together with Sylvia Guerrero, Carol Hernandez, and Cayetano Paderanga to helping oversee, on behalf of PSSC, a very dynamic process of conceptualizing and implementing a research project on poverty under the aegis of Canada's International Development Research Center (IDRC). The research linked the two consortia at a time when donor agencies shifted their focus from supporting purely academic research to funding more engaging, participatory, multidisciplinary, multi-method and iterative research models that entail linkages with various government agencies and civil society groups.

The agenda of the IDRC study was to provide “training-in-the-process of doing” in research that was oriented towards finding paradigmatic and concrete solutions to real problems. The 1980s, after all, was marked by heightened awareness of social issues, and, from 1983 onwards, spaces for new forms of social and political action, as well as the convergence of ideologically conflicting perspectives. I can no longer recall the texture of the “research consortium period” in PSSC’s history except for the training all of us underwent in conducting and handling intense debates as well as transcending our egos when the discussions turned more personal. On hindsight, PSSC developed individuals in the consortium who ended up constituting a core of researchers and consultants who would represent their regions in major research undertakings. I would discover this in the 1990s when I bumped into old friends from my PSSC Consortium days in my visits to Visayas and Mindanao, this time wearing other hats.

The 1980s was also the time when women succeeded each other in chairing the PSSC Executive Board (this would become the Governing Council several years later). I recall an incident that would make a mark in our collective psyche as Filipino social scientists. Carol Hernandez was the outgoing chair, Patricia Licuanan the current chair, and I was Vice Chair. We all prepared a comprehensive assessment of the state of Philippine social science for a conference with our counterparts in Indonesia and Thailand (who were, incidentally, all males). We thought then that we delivered our papers excellently. However, our Indonesian and Thai friends, whose papers were not as developed as ours, would preface their presentations with a quip that bothered us. They noted that ‘the level of development of the paper for the conference was inversely proportional to the level of development of the country.’

The one-liner hit our guts as Filipino professionals. The challenge it posed was how the different social sciences could help the country raise itself by its bootstraps. The 1980s was after all a time when such challenges were articulated. In fact, towards the end of the 1980s, PSSC would embark on envisioning the next ten or so years. The process serendipitously opened up issues of governance and program thrusts. Divisive issues would be raised that eventually led to a reorganization of the Council. On hindsight, the professionalization of PSSC’s procedures and processes was among the positive consequences of those troubled years in the Council’s history.

I would return to PSSC and to its Governing Council more than a decade later with a single mission — to work once more on its institutional development component (the first time was in the 1980s when the Consortium was PSSC’s institutional project). Among many PSSC activities, two programs would be significant in the 2000s, namely the International Fellowships Program (IFP) which provide disadvantaged individuals with graduate scholarships anywhere in the world; and the Asian Scholarship Foundation (ASF) Fellowships that give generous research grants to enable the study of another Asian country by Filipino scholars and public intellectuals.

The IFP would support remarkable men and women who performed in an outstanding manner in universities that included top world institutions of higher learning. ASF, on the other hand, would build a strong group of young Filipino humanists and social scientists. Reflective of the development of a global network society, the emphasis on networking and linkages among fellows within the Philippines and outside the country is a common feature of the two programs PSSC helped breathe life into.

Since the 1980s but more so in the 2000s, PSSC would facilitate and engage in a particular type of academic networking — organizing big national and international conferences. The International Conference on Philippine Studies, International Association of Historians of Asia Conference, National Social Science Congress are among the conferences organized by PSSC. The Council would also network with other professional social science organizations in the world. I am honored to have represented PSSC in Alexandria in 2006 when its membership to the prestigious International Social Science Council was accepted.

Throughout the many years of witnessing the development of PSSC, I have been very much impressed by its staff. Regardless of time period, PSSC has had a core of people who are remarkably of the same weave — dedicated multi-taskers who knew how to fill in many gaps that PSSC's multiple publics would never have imagined existed. In recent years, the changes in the facade of PSSC (the building has had a major make over!), the much higher status of its professional journals (one of them has achieved ISI status with the others about to follow suit), and the external linkages of its professional organizations reflect the vision of its founders, the leadership of various boards and executive directors, and the commitment and clear sense of stewardship of the staff.

On its 40th year, I particularly salute those who helped PSSC navigate the new waters of this decade — PSSC's epistemic communities, the Council's current staff, and the leader who has orchestrated small and big changes — Virginia Miralao. After 40 years, PSSC has not only survived the challenges of different decades, it has indeed flourished.



Along With the Changing World



FLORANGEL ROSARIO BRAID
Chair, Executive Board,
April 1988 - February 1989

Forty years ago, the Philippine Social Science Council was founded by leading social scientists. Its aim was to promote further development of the social sciences and to enhance the use of knowledge generated in analyzing social conditions and public policy. The Council has grown to include 14 member organizations representing various disciplines.

The late '80s, the years when I served as President of the Philippines Communication Society (PCS), and subsequently member of the Executive Board, and later, its chair, was a period of euphoria and anticipation. Buoyed up by the opening of democratic space and a new Constitution, we felt we can do almost anything. Many of our social scientists participated in the crafting of the new Charter through position papers, and later by joining the Constitutional commissioners in field consultations. PCS founding members which included Raul Ingles, the late Pacifico Aprieto, Georgina Encanto, Alice Villadolid, and Nim Gonzalez, and myself among a few, provided the structure and strategy of the organization.. As Georgina would say, whenever a significant communication issue emerged, you can be sure that PCS was there to provide a timely response. At the PSSC Executive Board, Carol Hernandez, Tatti Licuanan, Cynthia Bautista and myself, shared the rotating chairmanship over a 7-year period. This was the time when the Council started organizing regional consortia in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. We also had an active pipeline to Malacañang. This ensured that our research studies were read and utilized by the Executive staff. Subsequently, several of our Executive Board officers were appointed as heads of several government offices like the National Economic and Development Authority, and international development agencies.

The present environment is not too different from that of the early years, as we are still faced with similar challenges. The difference is that the problems have grown in magnitude because of the rapid social changes that have created considerable imbalances. Globalization and the advent of the new information and communication technology have resulted in economic progress. But at the same time, they have brought about negative consequences. We see these in the growing divide between the rich and the poor, the emergence of ethnic, religious, territorial and resources conflict, and the threat of environmental deterioration.

Over the years, the PSSC community has demonstrated its leadership by addressing many of these problems. Its research and advocacy on population, migration, governance, and poverty have contributed significantly in shaping the country's social and political agenda to enrich global knowledge in these fields.

But for now, PSSC faces its greatest challenge where the country hurdles one crisis after another. It is an opportunity for the Council to demonstrate how it can develop the platform for debate and advocacy on the critical issues of peace, human security, and economic survival. It can be a strong force by its very nature—being both interdisciplinary and multisectoral. Moreover, it has the moral and intellectual capacity to address some of the pressing concerns of our time—the restoration of trust in our social and political institutions and the development of a framework for moral transformation.



Dr. Braid with Program Coordinator Pilar Ramos-Jimenez and former Chairs Cayetano Paderanga Jr., and Sylvia Guerrero.

PSSC at Forty



FELIPE B. MIRANDA
Chair, Board of Trustees,
1997

At forty, the Philippine Social Science Council looks forward to being at its best. No longer so young as to lack experience in the demanding ways of academe, nor venerable enough as to crave academic retirement, PSSC remains a critical work in progress. Still, even in anticipation of the next forty years, PSSC has already delivered on its prime mandate: to nurture the country's social sciences.

The pioneering academics who birthed PSSC in the 1960s dedicated themselves to a singular mission — coordinating, synergizing, and focusing the social science disciplines to aid in their intellectual growth, interdisciplinary collaboration, and synergistic outreach work.

At the time, the mostly young scholars and their fledgling disciplines seldom practiced academic synergy. The PSSC's foundation changed that irreversibly. Through PSSC, Filipino social scientists shared each other's work in various PSSC training programs, conferences, research projects, and publications. In the course of these academic activities, they still managed to observe their duties as public intellectuals; through various outreach programs, they activated a multiplier effect as they informed and educated younger colleagues nationwide.

PSSC kept Filipino social scientists and their disciplines from being parochial. Through PSSC, their ties with the international academic community were initiated, formalized, and strengthened. Filipino social scientists collaborated productively with their foreign counterparts in examining critical dimensions of social existence. This collaboration was not limited to traditional contacts with scholars from the United States and Western Europe. In the past forty years, PSSC-affiliated social scientists made their mark in numerous conferences and research projects in Latin America, Scandinavia, the Middle East, Africa, as well as Asia and the Pacific. Through PSSC, many Filipino academics developed from being merely parochial to national, international and — in some extremely exceptional cases — into cosmopolitan social scientists.



Prof. Miranda swearing in discipline representatives to PSSC BOT:
Angelo Bernardo, Ana Maria Tabunda, Ellen Palanca,
Eden Gripaldo and Malaya Ronas.

In line with this PSSC mission to project the country's social sciences abroad, at least one of PSSC's affiliated disciplines—political science—has already gained international recognition for publishing a truly professional journal. The *Philippine Political Science Journal* was recently awarded ISI status—a much-coveted classification by academic journals worldwide. PSSC's other social sciences' journals will probably follow suit soon.

To attain all of these worthy objectives and, at the same time, to remain financially solvent is obviously quite an achievement for any academic organization. The PSSC Board, its Executive Director, and the Secretariat deserve fulsome praise for the association's efficient day-to-day management as well as its sound financial condition across the years. The current Executive Director, Dr. Virginia Miralao, also merits special citation for the aesthetic improvements that has made the PSSCenter building a delightful academic abode.

However, impressive as this record might be, this is not all that PSSC has achieved in its first forty years. PSSC has also protected its academic integrity and served the national interest by seeking, promoting and shielding truth and objectivity in the nation's most trying and perilous times. A martial law regime, a season of violent coups, a restored oligarchy and a continuing environment of less than democratic governance have not succeeded in intimidating PSSC and its dedicated academics.

Thus, at forty, stronger, more mature, and much more confident, PSSC faces the future—a most formidable one with global recession and political uncertainties threatening—well prepared for whatever challenges it brings. Whatever happens, PSSC and its then young brood and now accomplished breed of social scientists will doubtlessly help in crafting a better social reality in the Philippines and—who knows—perhaps even elsewhere.



The 40-Year Odyssey of PSSC

NESTOR PILAR
Chair, Board of Trustees,
1998

If the Philippine Social Science Council were a ship engaged in a long journey, then the major events in its history, as for instance, its 40th anniversary, may be likened to landmarks or ports-of-call systematically located along the way to an ultimate destination. Those in the Board of Trustees are at the helm, steering the ship along its course.

A decade ago, I was at the helm when PSSC reached its 30th landmark or port-of-call. It is interesting to reflect on the significant events and achievements of that period. In the late nineties, the scientific community was preoccupied with measuring development and forecasting the conditions and challenges of the 21st century and the new millennium. Globally, a major concern was the rapid deterioration of the physical environment in the face of continuing population growth and rising poverty incidence, among others. Thus, the United Nations issued a call for the promotion of sustainable development.

On the home front, everyone, including the scientific community, was celebrating the centennial of the Republic. Social scientists, led by PSSC, mounted the Fourth National Social Science Congress simultaneously with the 20th Annual Scientific Meeting of the National Academy of Science and Technology. Adopting the theme, "The Philippine Social Sciences in the Life of the Nation," the event was held at the Westin Philippine Plaza on 8-9 July 1998. I consider the holding of the Fourth Congress as the single most important event in my watch as BOT Chair in 1998.

What was the significance of the Fourth Congress to organizational change and institutional linkages? The emerging pattern of relationships and interconnectedness among what used to be disparate social science disciplines were discussed in the pre-congress keynote addresses of then UP President Emil Q. Javier, then Socio-economic Planning Secretary Cielito F. Habito, the Fourth Congress Keynote address of NAST Academician Gelia T. Castillo, and the papers read at the Congress itself.

Citing the benefits of the pre-congress roundtable discussions on the common issues confronting the country, Dr. Javier recognized the need for social scientists to fully explore the expanse and limits of interdisciplinary collaboration. Dr. Habito noted that in the process of nation-building social scientists should reach out to and not merely criticize government. At the same time, government must reach out to social scientists.

In her address, Dr. Castillo expressed optimism that there seemed to be a “new enthusiasm” for social scientists to agree on a “common future” with doctors, lawyers, humanists, engineers and architects, science and math educators, and scientists in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and other practitioners.

Interestingly, these thoughts were to find a parallel in the administrative sciences, particularly in the redefinition of the role of government. Initially there was the drive towards reducing big government and bureaucracy not only through devolution of powers to lower tiers of government but also to the private sector. Reinventing, reengineering, wielding, downsizing the bureaucracy and privatization were the epithets in the business and public administration literature. Thus when UNDP rallied the world community towards sustainable development, “good governance” emerged as the appropriate administrative mechanism for goal attainment.

Good governance meant government collaborating with the private sector (the market) and civil society in addressing the complex problems shaping up in the new millennium. In sum, there was growing recognition that government cannot do it alone. It must forge partnerships with the market and the community through interorganizational, intersectoral, and interdisciplinary approaches.

I must emphasize the fact that PSSC was situated at the vanguard in all of these developments and trends. In terms of international linkages, while PSSC continued to maintain its links with AASSREC, the Asian Conference on Scientific Cooperation (which moved for establishing a Science Council of Asia), the Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences, etc, PSSC also in 1998 established

another link with the National Center for Social Sciences and Humanities of Vietnam (now the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences). I recall being tasked to represent PSSC at the International Workshop on “AFTA and ASEAN Economics in the Perspective of the Asian Financial Crisis” in Hanoi in February 1998 and, more specifically to sign the MOU between NCSSH and PSSC.

Consistent with the suggestion of Dr. Habito for the social sciences to reach out to government, PSSC recognized the need for it to immediately respond to social issues. Thus at the BOT meeting on 30 September 1998, PSSC appointed a “Coordinator for Social Response” in the person of Dr. Aurora Perez. She was also tasked to draft the PSSC Statement of Support to the “Erap para sa Mahirap” Program of the Estrada Administration and to cause it to be presented to then President Estrada on the occasion of the Annual Conference of the Philippine Society for Public Administration on the theme, “Anti-Corruption Thrusts of the Estrada Administration” on 15-16 October 1998 at the ISMED Auditorium, UP Diliman.

PSSC also undertook a review of its By-Laws on the initiative of Dr. Cayetano W. Paderanga Jr., then BOT Vice-Chairperson, who observed discrepancies in the powers and responsibilities between the General Assembly and the BOT. The BOT appointed Dr. Paderanga to chair the Amendments Committee to undertake a review of PSSC’s organizational structure, functions, By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation. Prof. Felipe Miranda, Immediate Past Chair, volunteered to assist Dr. Paderanga.

PSSC has since sailed on, surviving the challenges of an increasing turbulence in international and national waters. Unperturbed, PSSC sails on.



Dr. Nestor Pilar and fellow Board members, Drs. Elena Samonte and Ana Maria Tabunda, are sworn in by Prof. Felipe Miranda.

PSSC Transitions in the Nineties



CAYETANO W. PADERANGA JR.
Chair, Governing Council,
1999-2000

My involvement with PSSC started in 1981, when Ernie Pernia asked me to sit for him in the PSSC Board representing the Philippine Economic Society. That led to my membership in the advisory committee for the Visayas Research Consortium, where I met fellow adviser, Manny Diaz and researcher Bolet Gonzaga, and the late Rowie Cadelina of the Visayas Research Consortium. That was part of an effort by PSSC to assist in the development of viable social science research centers in other regions of the country. Part of the plan was to help organize research projects that would showcase the research capability already evident in some regional research centers.

Another aspect was its assistance in the training of researchers in those areas where research capability was just starting. While the joint projects did not really pan out as expected, several regional research centers became better known. These centers went on to make their own contributions in social science research and its propagation. Among these would be the research centers in University of San Carlos, University of St. La Salle in Bacolod, Silliman University, and Xavier University. Still other research centers started and grew after that, although admittedly not directly from PSSC's efforts but certainly with PSSC encouragement.

Going abroad to do research and teaching, I lost touch with PSSC for a while and came back to represent the discipline of Economics again in the PSSC Board in 1999-2000. I had just left my full-time membership at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and had gone back to teach at the UP School of Economics.

The big job we had at the Board that year and the succeeding year was to review and amend the by-laws of PSSC in order to attune it to newer realities. In the preceding years, conditions relating to social science research and practice in the Philippines had changed and many other organizational changes in PSSC had occurred. In part, these changes could be traced to the reaction to martial law and its immediate aftermath.

PSSC became a feistier activist during the later part of the Marcos administration and immediately after. By 1999, the job and the change we had to do was the review of the delineation between the powers and responsibilities of the Board of Directors and the Governing Council. Upon review by all the sectors, the powers and responsibilities were redefined in order to streamline the procedures and processes of decision-making in the Council and make program implementation more effective.

One other change we made at the Board related specifically to meeting procedures. Again perhaps because of the issues in the preceding years, Board meetings would often stretch beyond three hours. Attendance was also difficult to obtain from the members. We agreed that all meetings would not last more than two hours and the time was used for decision making. Materials were sent beforehand and issues were discussed ahead of the meeting. Any unfinished matter would be postponed to the next meeting. The result was that meetings became shorter, such that by the end of the Board's term, meetings rarely lasted more than one hour. The remaining time during lunch could now be used for networking.

Soon, I left for government again and have only recently come back to full-time teaching at the UP School of Economics. And now, as I get back into the swing of things related to PSSC, I am gratified that the development of the social sciences and PSSC's role in it has gone even further. I am, for example, impressed not only by the physical improvement of the PSSCenter, but also by the programs and projects of the Council and the activities of the individual organizations. Social science activities seem more vibrant now, efficiently managed and run. The change has been impressive.

As PSSC observes its 40th anniversary, I am happy to see this continuing development and expect the institution to continue flourishing into the future. My best wishes to PSSC on this significant milestone.



Dr. Paderanga with Dr. Zelda Zablan and NSO Administrator Carmelita Ericta (left photo), and with fellow PSSC Chairs Ronald Holmes and Filomeno Aguilar Jr. (top photo).

Celebrating 40 Years of PSSC Achievements



ALEX B. BRILLANTES
Chair, Governing Council,
2000 - 2002

It is with great pleasure that we send our greetings to the Philippine Social Science Council as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. For 40 years, the PSSC has served its member organizations very faithfully and I must say, very professionally. I have had the honor and privilege to work with the executive directors — Professor Ruben Trinidad and Dr. Virginia Miralao — and staff of the Council and they certainly have been very professional and efficient in handling the organization. The Philippine Society of Public Administration (PSPA) has been privileged to have been served by PSSC, having received support from PSSC in many ways.

The network it has provided, the many local and international conferences that we have become part of, and of course in the organization of a number of conferences and workshops that have contributed to the analysis and discourse of ongoing governance issues and concerns, ranging from reorganization to corruption and the imperative to promote good governance. We are therefore very grateful to be part of the network of PSSC and we will continue supporting PSSC as our partner in our continued joint advocacy for good and responsive governance.

It is indeed an occasion to celebrate!

It is also an occasion for us to take stock of what we have accomplished, celebrate our successes and identify areas of reform and change as we march into our next decade into our 50th year.

But again, let us not forget to celebrate and express our gratitude to the PSSC officers and staff.





RONALD D. HOLMES
Chair, Governing Council,
2002 - 2004

Key Words

Self-propelled. If we are to use a single word to describe the Philippine Social Science Council, none could be more appropriate than being self-propelled. Having sat in the Council's Board for a period close to seven years — as discipline representative of Political Science in 1999, as Board Chair in 2002, and as ex-officio Chair in 2004, — I came to appreciate PSSC's independence, particularly as I met with other social science organizations in the region in the meetings and symposia that PSSC organized for the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils. We are distinct across Asia, one of the very few social science organizations not associated with, nor dependent on government for our organizational well-being. Not impeded by bureaucratic inefficiencies nor saddled by the politics intrinsic in the public sector, the distinction of being a private network of social science professional organizations is indeed a blessing.

Self-regulating. PSSC has seen and effectively resolved many serious organizational challenges. I attribute this to an evident commitment among PSSC's member disciplines and associate member organizations to shore up the state of the Council rather than favour narrow professional or organization interests. In the organizational-development interventions agreed upon in the last seven years — from emphasizing disciplinary representation to strictly implementing the criteria for retaining membership in good standing, from the promotion of scholarship to ensuring a balanced budget — the discussions had been "animated," yet gradually bound to a consensus, and without need for external intervenors.



Prof. Holmes with other PSSC Officers, Finardo Cabilao, Filomeno Aguillar Jr., Isabel Martin and Executive Director Virginia Miralao during a General Membership Meeting of PSSC.

In reaching 40, the Council has much more to achieve. Of the areas to which PSSC can direct itself, the greatest import may lie in ushering paradigmatic shifts and facilitating changes in discourses to improve the quality of our national politics and our country's socio-economic and cultural life. I am confident that with the resilience shown by the Council in the last four decades, the extension beyond self and unto society and the greater collective is forthcoming.

Finally, the current healthy state of the Council is a result of the competent management of our Executive Director, Dr. Virginia A. Miralao, and the zealous and dedicated service of members of the Secretariat. The Secretariat has held the organization together amidst changes in the membership and leadership of the Board, competently handling numerous special programs, and judiciously using the Council's resources. Though PSSC's reputation draws from the work of its member organizations, the continuous progress of the Council stems from the effective stewardship of the institution through the years by the Secretariat under PSSC's Executive Directors.



PSSC at 40: Congratulations for Crafting a Vibrant Philippine Social Science Community!

EMMA E. PORIO
Chair, Governing Council,
2004 - 2006

Life begins at 40, so goes the popular maxim! But for PSSC, its institutional life could not have been better after four decades of challenge and dynamic growth! Over the years, I recall how PSSC has successfully crafted an institutional framework and base for social science organizations and social scientists in the country and in the Asia Pacific region.

My recollections of PSSC's institutional growth and challenges will be centered along two trajectories of professional engagements: (1) as discipline representative of the Philippine Sociological Society (PSS) to the PSSC Executive Board in the early 1990s and to the PSSC Governing Council in 2004-2006, and (2) as officer of the PSS, one of the pioneer members of the PSSC.

I first sat at PSSC's Executive Board in 1990-1992 as PSS's discipline representative. This was the period when PSSC had two decision-making structures: (1) an Executive Board, composed of discipline representatives, and (2) a Governing Council, composed of the presidents of the social science organization members.

I remember how then Executive Director Ruben Trinidad sent me to represent PSSC in the biennial meeting of the International Federation of Social Science Organizations (IFFSO) in Brasilia, Brazil. Here, PSSC got elected to the IFFSO Board of Trustees in recognition of its pioneering institutional work in establishing a community for social science organizations in the country and in the region.

When I came back in 2004 and got elected to chair the Governing Council, PSSC focused on further strengthening its institutional framework as well as renovating its building and bringing it to 21st century aesthetics and standards. In line with institutional strengthening, PSSC undertook a review of its by-laws under the leadership of Prof. Ronnie Holmes, Dr. Cayetano Paderanga, and Dr. Cynthia Bautista.

The review returned the Governing Council to its original function — truly a policy-making body — by reducing the monthly meetings to a quarterly review of policies and operations, with a monthly management-committee meeting. The membership committee pushed for refining membership performance standards by linking it to the incentive/benefit structure of the

organization (e.g., conference and publication grants released only to members in good standing).

The other trajectory of my PSSC engagement is from the vantage point of a member organization, the PSS. Over the years, as PSS president (1999-2002) and guest editor of the *Philippine Sociological Review* (PSR) at various points, I am very thankful for the excellent support that it has provided to our association through conference, travel, and publication grants. In part because of these supportive mechanisms, PSR is the highest revenue generating journal among the social science journals under PSSC's fold. We are very grateful for this support for it has strengthened our organization and through these small milestones, it has put PSR in the global map of knowledge economy.

PSSC is a major broker of knowledge production for its member organizations. Let me cite a few examples here.

In 2004, the Philippine Migration Research Network or PMRN, which was organized by PSSC as focal point of UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, invited me to its forum on "Transnational Communities and Migration." Here, I met migration experts in the region like Dr. Christine Inglis of the Multi-Cultural Studies Centre of the University of Sydney and member of the Asia Pacific Migration Research Network, a network which had as its first Chair, no less than Dr. Benjamin Cariño who was PMRN's first Chair.

This forum was instrumental in PSSC and the East West Center (Honolulu) organizing the "Global Householding Workshop" in February 2006. These involvements led to my nomination and election to the Executive Council of the International Sociological Association (ISA) on the occasion of its XVI World Congress of

Sociology in Durban, South Africa. This is the highest position ever attained by a Filipino sociologist in ISA and I am grateful to PSSC for providing a nurturing space for linking Filipino social scientists to the global social science arena.

In 2006, current Executive Director Dr. Virginia Miralao asked me to represent PSSC in the biennial meeting of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) in Paris. PSSC was then invited to join the ISSC fold for its leadership among social science organizations in the Asia-Pacific region. There are so many accomplishments of PSSC but the constraints of space prevent me from enumerating them all. But suffice it to say, PSSC as an independent, non-profit organization, is one of the most vibrant social science councils in the world!

Over the years, PSSC has been central in providing support to the growth and professionalization of social science organizations in the Philippines. PSSC is also a leading member of the Association of Asian Social Science Research Council. This is largely due to the dynamic leadership of Dr. Miralao, the support of competent staff, and the officers of the Executive Board and Governing Council through the years.



Dr. Porio at the 2000 ICOPHIL with Lorna Makil, Erlinda Burton, Ambeth Ocampo, Willem Wolters and Virginia Miralao.

Publishing Progress: The Struggle of Philippine Social Science Journals

FILOMENO V. AGUILAR, JR.

Chair, Board of Trustees 2006-2008
Philippine Social Science Council



One of the toughest but needful tasks of the PSSC Board of Trustees is to make sure that regular member associations produce at least one academic journal annually. On behalf of the Board, the Membership Committee monitors compliance with this requirement.

A regular member's inability to publish a journal for two consecutive years results in an inactive status, and the withholding of the annual conference grant. In addition to the publication requirement, members are also required annually to pay dues, attend the general assembly, submit an annual report, and hold regular elections. A member association's failure to meet any of these requirements for three consecutive years results in suspension, which means forfeiture of voting rights in the Board.

Florescence

Why has the PSSC become some sort of publication police? When the Council was first established in 1968 no stringent provision regarding publications existed in the bylaws. A member was simply assumed to "publish a journal or similar learned publication at least once a year:"

Only six of the twelve academic disciplines that banded together to form the Council had published journals prior to 1968: *Journal of History*, founded in 1941; *Philippine Statistician*, 1952; *Philippine Sociological Review*, 1953; *Social Work*, 1956; *Philippine Journal of Public Administration*, 1957; *Philippine Economic Journal*, 1963 (renamed *Philippine Review of Economics* in 2000); and *Historical Bulletin*, 1967. The *Philippine Journal of Psychology* appeared in the same year as the PSSC's establishment. The discipline of Geography became a part of the PSSC in 1977, but the *Philippine Geographical Journal* had been in existence since 1953.

During those early years, we could imagine academics relatively fresh from graduate school eagerly putting out their journals, in emulation of the practice of academic disciplines overseas and desirous to build a body of locally generated and appropriate knowledge. By 1973 the amended Articles of Incorporation tasked the PSSC "to strengthen the voice of the social science disciplines, associations, and professionals, by promoting and assisting their various journals through the creation of a Central Subscription Service . . ."

Three new journals appeared in the 1970s and two in the 1980s: *Philippine Journal of Linguistics*, 1970; *Philippine Political Science Journal*, 1974; *Aghamtao*, 1978; *Philippine Population Journal*, 1985 (renamed *Philippine Population Review* in 2002); and *Philippine Communication Journal*, 1986. Thus, by the late 1980s—or nearly two decades after the Council was created—all disciplines represented in the PSSC finally had their own journals.

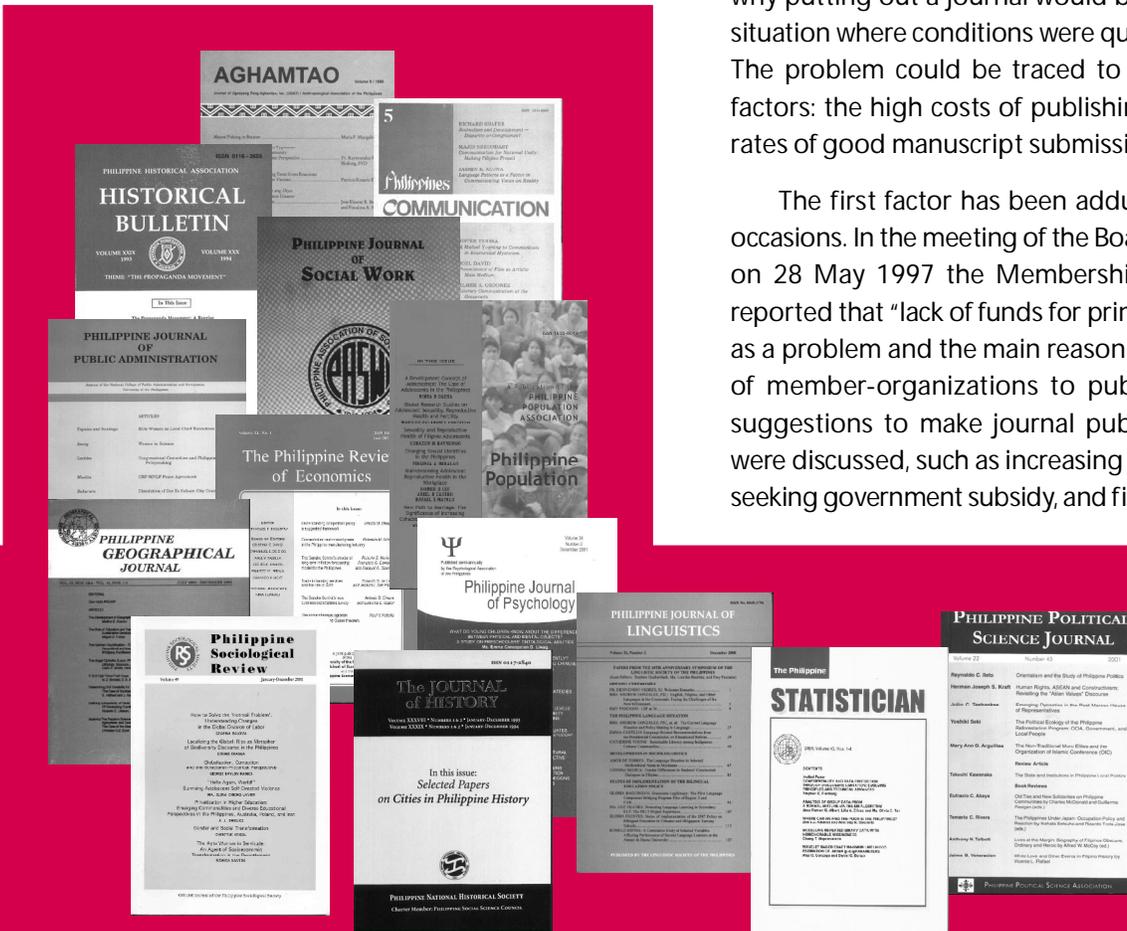
Given the relatively long tradition of social science journal publishing, one might have expected these journals to be thriving and well established by now, with many subscribers and their abstracts appearing in compendia such as the Social Science Citation Index. This has not been the case.

Faltering

Notwithstanding the many journal titles, journal publishing entered a moribund stage. What happened? The story is yet to be told. What is clear is that, by the 1990s, many member associations were struggling to come out with journal issues. In response, the Council adopted in September 1994 new bylaws that included the requirement of an annual publication. (The bylaws received approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission in February 1995.)

What was it about the 1990s that made journal production a formidable task? Democratic space had been restored in the late 1980s and the economic downturn during the last few years of Marcos's reign had been reversed. One wonders why putting out a journal would be difficult in a situation where conditions were quite propitious. The problem could be traced to either of two factors: the high costs of publishing, or the low rates of good manuscript submissions.

The first factor has been adduced on many occasions. In the meeting of the Board of Trustees on 28 May 1997 the Membership Committee reported that “lack of funds for printing was cited as a problem and the main reason for the failure of member-organizations to publish.” Various suggestions to make journal publishing viable were discussed, such as increasing subscriptions, seeking government subsidy, and finding cheaper



Journals of PSSC's regular member-organizations

printers. That the PSSC acquire a printing machine was even floated. However, during the Board meeting the query was raised whether the problem was “really financing or securing publishable articles.” Raised by Dean Felipe M. Medalla, this question would reverberate in the ensuing years.

If the dearth of good manuscripts did become acute in the 1990s, we may ask: Were academics then (and since) just so busy with consulting work and donor-driven research projects that they had no time or interest to write journal articles? Were publications not given sufficient emphasis in the universities, such as in policies on tenure and promotion? Was there a generational sea change when the earlier generation of article-writing academics had left the field or moved on to other countries or spheres of engagement, and a newer generation of academics had emerged only a few of whom could write publishable materials? Or, in the spirit of the times, had the social sciences become tongue-tied by postmodernists’ questioning of foundational tenets? These questions call for a deeper probe than is possible here.

In any event, whether due to lack of interest, sanctions, writing ability, or certainty, or some combination of these factors, the situation of social science journals in the 1990s had become an official worry of the Council. Although some associations were publishing diligently, more than half of the membership had backlogs of several years. The Council deemed that journal publishing was under threat and confronted it through an explicit statement in the bylaws—concomitantly signaling the value the Council placed upon journal publishing as an integral aspect of the Philippine social sciences.

Stringency

Members were given a grace period, a protracted one, to come to terms with the new

requirement. The Membership Committee did not begin to monitor compliance with this requirement until 1997. In the meeting held on 28 May mentioned above, the Membership Committee recommended adoption of the Guidelines for Monitoring PSSC Membership in Good Standing, which received the Board’s approval. Except for the holding of regular elections (which became a part of the bylaws in 1999), the guidelines included the four requirements mentioned above. Thus the Council essayed its role as publication police.

Even so, not until six years later, in October 2003, did the Membership Committee recommend “that PSSC suspend the release of next year’s Conference Award grant to regular-members who have been delinquent in producing journals.” It specified that eligibility for the grant was “contingent on the resumption of publication of their journals.”

Some representatives sitting in the Board also began to think of ways to nurture a culture of publishing. To impart journal writing skills, in April 2005 the PSSC held a three-day publications event billed as “How to Publish in Social Science Journals: A Seminar/Workshop.” There was considerable interest, as shown by the forty-two teachers and researchers from around the country who participated. In 2006 interest-free loans to print journals began to be made available. In that year three members utilized this loan facility to print and release back issues of their journals; two of the three would have been suspended had they not published delayed issues.

Have these measures been effective? In 1998 seven members had a publication backlog of more than two years. In 2006 eight members were in this situation, but the figure went down to just one the following year. At present two members are similarly situated. The record is uneven, but the trend in the last few years offers a hopeful sign.

Raising Standards

Recently, on 24 September 2008, discipline representatives and journal editors met to discuss journal standards. The criteria were obtained from the London-based International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), which is supporting Philippine Journals Online or PhilJOL (<http://www.philjol.info/>), a website where three members' journals are present. In keeping with international norms, the meeting agreed to standardize key aspects of journal publishing, as part of the official publication requirement.

The bar of quality is being elevated at a time when most Philippine journals face the challenge of being sidestepped as some universities reward faculty publications that appear in ISI journals only. At the same time, a handful of university-based journals have gained, or are aspiring to gain, accreditation from ISI Thomson Reuters. The outcome can be a deep divide among Philippine journals. The meeting in September may be seen as a sustained collective response by the PSSC's association-based journals.

Although the playing field may not be entirely even, a couple of years ago the Philippine Political Science Association had the courage and foresight to apply for ISI listing. This initiative by a member association was rewarded richly when, on 15 October 2008, came the great news that the *Philippine Political Science Journal* has been listed in ISI. This achievement inspires the other association-based journals in our common quest to promote and improve the Philippine social sciences.

Given this new context, one hopes that very soon the PSSC's Board of Trustees may no longer need to brandish its stick as publication police, as it recalibrates its role toward nurturing and advancing the publication of good quality journals that can converse with the national scholarly community and with the world.



Dr. Aguilar with other resource persons Stella Go, Romeo Lee and Emma Porio during the Seminar/ Workshop on Journal Publishing on 14-16 April 2005 (left photo). Again, Dr. Aguilar with Dr. Bernardo at the PSSC Workshop on Journal Standards on 24 September 2008 (right photo).



Multidisciplinary Social Science Research in the Philippines: Lessons and Challenges for PSSC

ALLAN B. I. BERNARDO

Chair, Board of Trustees 2008-2010
Philippine Social Science Council

The Philippine Social Science Council was founded on the strength and representation of thirteen social science disciplines: Anthropology, Communication, Demography, Economics, Geography, History, Linguistics, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Social Work, Sociology, and Statistics. But in its various programs and activities, PSSC has always emphasized collaboration among the disciplines and multidisciplinary in social science research. This emphasis is seen in the various activities including its research capacity building projects, the national social science congresses, commissioned research projects, and publications, among others.

Mapping the Backbone of Science

Recently, three American-based academics, Boyack, Klavans, and Borner applied the most recent scientometric and bibliometric techniques to map out how the various science disciplines are interconnected to each other. Boyack and colleagues (2005) worked with some 23.08 million

references from over 1.058 million published articles from 7,121 journals in the various natural and social sciences published in 2000. By analyzing citation patterns, they mapped out how different disciplines draw from other disciplines. The outcome of their study was a visual depiction (literally, a map) of where each discipline is, what are its neighboring disciplines, and how it impacts on these neighboring disciplines.

For the current discussion, I will focus on the findings that relate to the social science disciplines. First, the study identified seven major areas, two of which were psychology and social sciences. Interestingly, publications in the field of psychology seem to comprise a cluster that is distinct from the publications in the various social science disciplines. Does this suggest that psychology is moving away from the other social sciences? Not actually, as the authors of the study actually point to the close ties between the social sciences and psychology through the various specialties of psychology.

More pertinent to the present discussion, the study revealed which disciplines tended to be more insular and which tended to have stronger

interdisciplinary linkages. Many interesting observations were made regarding the social sciences. For example, compared to disciplines in the other major areas (e.g., physics, chemistry, earth sciences, medicine), the different disciplines within psychology were more independent, but that the social science disciplines were even more independent from each other. This finding is significant as it suggests that social sciences are not actually as interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary as their counterparts in the basic and applied natural and physical sciences.

Using different metrics of analysis, the study identifies which social science disciplines are more insular, and these are political science, international relations, geography, communications, and economics. Statistics and psychology tended to be more interdisciplinary, and anthropology was the most interdisciplinary among all social science disciplines. The study revealed that these three disciplines had strong links with non-social science disciplines (i.e., medicine, mathematics, physics, and chemistry). An interesting finding was the very weak link between the mathematics field and the social sciences, where only statistics, economics, and some psychology disciplines seem to have direct links to mathematics disciplines.

Perhaps, most problematic for the prospect of multidisciplinary social science was the finding that some social science research areas that are identified as either interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and/or transdisciplinary (i.e., behavioral sciences, social issues, area studies, and multidisciplinary social science) do not appear as labels in the analysis. The authors even question whether there is actually a need to identify these categories were actually necessary.

Implications for Philippine Social Sciences

The analysis above was based on analysis of the international research literature in refereed journals, which did not include research published in gray publications, and which also under-represented research from non-English speaking countries. Therefore, we cannot easily map the findings to the state of social science research in the Philippines. Perhaps, a study can

be undertaken to map the backbone of Philippine science disciplines. Nevertheless, the findings have important signals for Philippine social sciences.

The study points to one important concrete indication of multidisciplinary in how research draws from the analytic frames, principles, concepts, and tools of the different disciplines. Bringing people from different social science and natural science disciplines together is not sufficient to guarantee multidisciplinary. These people need to put on the table the concepts and tools of their disciplines, and the research activity will need to draw from and make explicit references to these. The research activity will not be multidisciplinary if the concepts and methods come from the analytic frame of one discipline.

The preceding point requires that each of the social science disciplines in the Philippines be very clear in articulating its own theoretical and analytic contributions to the multidisciplinary discussions. The results of the study show that although psychology now seems to constitute a distinct major area of scientific study, it is able to link well with other disciplines through its two “hubs” of social psychology and clinical psychology. The two hubs are theoretically very robust fields which are the source of ideas that are often cited by other related disciplines, suggesting the important role of strong theorizing within the disciplines, which will provide for more potent elements for true multidisciplinary research.

The importance of strong theorizing within the individual disciplines is also shown in how the applied areas were found to draw heavily from the concepts and analytic tools of the more basic social science disciplines. The study of Boyack and colleagues showed a consistent pattern where research in the applied social science disciplines cites mainly basic social science publications. For example, research in family studies refers mainly to theories in sociology and psychology, and research in urban studies refers primarily to concepts in economics and operations research. Similarly, research in the applied fields of criminology and industrial relations mainly draw from publications in sociology, whereas research in education and management studies often draw heavily from publications in psychology. We should note that many of these applied social science disciplines are often

thought as multidisciplinary in character, yet they seem to still draw strongly from the basic theories in the disciplines. Paradoxically, strong multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary research requires intense theorizing in the individual disciplines.

Challenges for the PSSC

PSSC has been a strong advocate of multidisciplinary research. Its six national social science congresses have all aimed to address broad social concerns by bringing together the perspectives and contributions of the different social sciences. In most of these congresses, the thematic focus of the scientific program often blurred the distinctions among the individual disciplines, and instead promoted the convergences among the disciplines. Many of the programs hosted and maintained by PSSC, such as the recently concluded International Conference on Philippine Studies (ICOPHIL), the Philippine Migration Research Network (PMRN), the research and development projects with the UNESCO National Commission, and even the ASIA Fellows Awards and International Fellowships Program (IFP) all explicitly give importance to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary social science approaches. Multidisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity are also strongly evidenced in the various publications of PSSC which emerged from its congresses and research projects.

But the preceding discussions indicate some important considerations for the PSSC's efforts to strengthen multidisciplinary social science research. First, PSSC's efforts should go beyond organizing and bringing together researchers from various social science disciplines. The efforts should also recognize that at the core of multidisciplinary research is strong theorizing in the disciplines. Thus, somehow, the PSSC should find a way to encourage and even to push the different social science disciplines to be more aggressive in developing Philippine theories in the social sciences.

In addition to ensuring that the core theories of the social science disciplines are strong, PSSC's multidisciplinary efforts should seek to find ways by which the different disciplines can engage, process, filter, and eventually cross-reference each other. I do not pretend to know about the most effective processes for constructing multi-disciplinary discourses, but certainly this is something that PSSC might want to facilitate in the medium or long term. There need to be more deliberate efforts to clarify or to define these processes. Perhaps, such efforts might be easier to facilitate when doing research in the applied areas, where the different levels of analysis will require the theoretical inputs and analysis from the different disciplines.

Finally, multidisciplinarity in the social sciences should not be confined to the social science disciplines. As the study of Boyack and colleagues suggest, some very strong links exist between the social sciences and the other physical and medical sciences. In this regard, PSSC may need to engage the other science research councils both in the Philippines and in other countries. Once again, such processes may be easier to facilitate in the applied areas of research (e.g., environmental studies).

Final Thoughts

Multidisciplinarity seems to be strongly valued by Philippine social scientists, and PSSC strives to promote multidisciplinary in its programs, even as it supports the development of the individual basic and applied social science disciplines. Studies on the research products of social scientists in other countries suggests that social scientists may not be as multidisciplinary as they aspire to be, and that their counterparts in the natural sciences (e.g., medicine, biochemistry) may be much more multi-disciplinary. Clearly, multidisciplinary social research still poses a major challenge that PSSC and the Philippine social science community will need to address in the coming years.

Reference

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*Messages from
PSSC Partners*

PSSC: Partner in Foresight and Transformation



FELICE PRUDENTE STA. MARIA
Commissioner and Chairman,
Social and Human Sciences
Committee, UNESCO National
Commission of the Philippines

Philippine Social Science Council is a major collaborator of UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM). PSSC has initiated, designed, managed, and promoted projects with and on-behalf of UNESCO and the country over decades.

Social Transformation Research. PSSC represents the nation in the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme of UNESCO. At its onset, in 1994, MOST sought to promote international, interdisciplinary and comparative research in the social sciences that can improve policy-making (in key areas as promoting equity and democratic governance, lessening potentials for conflict and fostering sustainable development into the 21st century), and assist nations cope with and respond to contemporary social transformations. In 2003, MOST began to focus more on building bridges between social research and policy-making in order to develop a culture of evidence-based policy-making in national, regional and international levels. In the first MOST intergovernmental meeting in 1994, the Philippines was represented by Dr. Florangel Braid, former PSSC Chair. Current PSSC Executive Director Virginia Miralao actively participated in MOST's intergovernmental programs and activities in subsequent years, while current PSSC Chair Allan Bernardo represented the country in the Dialogue Forum on Social Policies in Southeast Asia, organized by MOST in Bangkok in August this year.

Social Studies Advocacy. In 2000, PSSC also teamed with UNACOM's Social and Human Sciences Committee to review social studies in the basic education curriculum, convinced of the subject area's importance to shaping a society that values critical thinking as essential to civics. The partnership's pioneering, innovative research has

established that basic education requires one newly crafted overarching learning goal to clearly link social studies with the other major subject areas, connect the different sub-subject areas of social studies with each other, and bridge the diverse values and learning competencies of the existing curriculum.

Within that same advocacy which continues to gain ground, PSSC supports UNACOM's policy recommendation for social studies to be officially recognized as the entry point for social and human sciences in basic education. The move would introduce the inductive mode and age-appropriate heuristic devices to support social studies' goals in civics and cultural development.

Resource for Basic Education. PSSC is seen by the social studies advocacy as a principal leader in a second policy recommendation: the creation of a social studies resource arm for the Department of Education. PSSC would link up-to-date findings in social and human sciences research, including MOST, with basic education's teaching community, learning-aid producers, national evaluators and curriculum planners; while UNACOM serve as an oversight body to ensure the implementation of UNESCO conventions to which the Philippines is a party.

National Development Planning. UNACOM is initiating dialogue regarding a third policy recommendation in which PSSC can play a major role: participation — on behalf of multisectoral stakeholders — in the design of national development plans. By highlighting the social and cultural dimensions of development planning, PSSC can provide more nuanced development frameworks and strategies that today are traditionally dominated by economic models and quantitative targets. Working hand in hand with government technocrats and strategists, PSSC would provide an independent conclave of social and human scientists to shape fresh approaches to ascertaining social development progress and

the long-term effects of programs, e.g., of basic education on citizenship both national and global.

The value of social and human sciences to the choices that cultures must make increases significantly as urgent environmental realities challenge traditional societal modes. The scientist's alliance that is PSSC can inspire Philippine foresight and fortitude as humankind seeks unity to sustain the Earth as habitat and haven.



The UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines, represented by Secretary General Preciosa Soliven and Social and Human Sciences Committee Chair Felice Sta. Maria, joins PSSC at the reopening of the MBC Seminar Room and launching of PMRN's publication *Exploring Transnational Communities in the Philippines*, 15 May 2007. Also in photo is Dr. Benjamin Cariño, Chair Emeritus of PMRN.



Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ gives the keynote address during the 2000 ICOPHIL.

The PSSC and Philippine Studies



BELINDA A. AQUINO
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The establishment of the Philippine Social Science Council in the late '60s came at a most auspicious time in the arena of international and regional events. The Cold War was not yet over. The longstanding war in Vietnam was still raging after so many years. The civil rights movement in America was gradually empowering minority, women, and other groups heretofore oppressed, abused, misrepresented or underrepresented, underserved, and discriminated against. Students all over the world were waging all kinds of culture wars, especially assaulting the corridors of power and the establishment. In the Philippines a state of repression was escalating amidst intensifying student activism that would later lead to the historic First Quarter Storm in the early '70s. It was a time of revolution and eventually the declaration of an unprecedented martial law dictatorship by a desperate despot clinging to power.

The world needed a new paradigm at this time of great upheaval. New forces were emerging and reshaping the state of society a few decades into the end of the 20th century. The creation of PSSC coincided with these turbulent developments. It had to be part of the emerging paradigm. It had to participate in this exciting prospect of looking at society differently, away from the withering climate of the Cold War and the stodginess of authoritarian regimes. A more liberating form of humanity was emerging with alternative paths of development to hold society together as the world was beginning to be bound together by yet another set of remarkable changes revolving around global forces and the technological revolution.



Dr. Aquino with PSA President Bernardita Churchill and Dean Ofelia Angangco at the Opening Ceremonies of the 8th ICOPHIL



Dean Angangco officially opens the 8th ICOPHIL.

PSSC has provided a model in which the new forces of social change on the Philippine scene could be examined more critically by the country's social scientists for intellectual, public policy, and practical purposes. The institution has fostered an environment of interdisciplinarity, ushering in a broader, more challenging perspective in the analysis of issues and problems of society and communities. Using research as its major tool, its goal, among others, has been to build an institutional capacity to interpret the diversity and complexity of cultures that affect people's lives. It has encouraged and provided opportunities for critical thinking in exploring various perspectives on any societal issue, be it education, socialization, democratization, corruption, militarization, poverty, migration, development, conflict, terrorism, and so on. The ultimate goal, of course, is to help academics, students, practitioners and individuals interested in social science develop the skills necessary to conceptualize and support their own conclusions based on their own informed thinking, rather than on what established seats of conventional wisdom or textbooks say.

Philippines Studies as a sub-area of the broader field of Area Studies has benefited much from PSSC's infrastructure in the Philippines. When we were setting up the program at University of Hawaii (which preceded the formal establishment of the Center for Philippine Studies) in 1974, it was imperative that it got connected to major academic and educational institutions in the Philippines, including the PSSC, then in its fledgling years. Philippine Studies in Hawaii needed that kind of interdisciplinary connection with the humanities, social sciences, and professional fields in Philippine academia. We established an Academic Exchange Agreement with the University of the Philippines and informal agreements with other institutions. Our program was created by the Hawaii State Legislature to recognize the academic expertise on the Philippines at the University of Hawaii and the contributions that Filipinos have made to the history and development of Hawaii, whose total population currently consists of nearly 24 percent Filipinos or part-Filipinos.

PSSC has served as the venue, secretariat and a major participant in three International Conferences on Philippine Studies (ICOPHIL): in 1989, 2000, and 2008. The ICOPHIL series is a project of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, which partners with a cooperating institution in an international location to host the conference every four years. The first in the series was held at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan; the second at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; the third in Quezon City; the fourth in Canberra; the fifth at the University of Hawaii again; the sixth, also in Quezon City; the seventh in Leiden, Netherlands; and the 8th in Quezon City again.

In all three Philippine-hosted ICOPHILs, PSSC served as the vital nerve center for planning, discussion, logistics, programming and other activities needed to hold a conference of international magnitude. The last one, held in July 2008, attracted more than 300 participants from the U.S., Europe, Australia, Japan, Korea, Pacific Islands and Southeast Asia, in addition to the several from the Philippines itself. Coordinating with the Philippine Studies Association, the UP, Ateneo de Manila, De La Salle, University of Hawaii at Manoa, the National Historical Institute, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the Quezon City government, PSSC really pulled together a solid framework for undertaking the highly successful international conference.

With its expertise, resources, experience and guidance, PSSC should really be commended for serving as a crucial center of gravity for the generation and dissemination of knowledge with particular reference to the various facets of social science. It has provided a forum for the best social science minds in the country to get together and discuss contemporary issues affecting Philippine society, including Filipino overseas communities, and devising appropriate paradigms, methodologies and programs to “problematize” and resolve many of these issues.

This kind of intellectual engagement on state, society and culture should continue and PSSC is central to this major goal.

As PSSC commemorates its 40th anniversary, it is only fitting that we recognize with pride and honor the quality of leadership and talent that has infused the institution since its inception in 1968. A succession of proactive and committed academic leaders has enriched the institution with intellectual vigor and vitality. Their names are enshrined forever in the PSSC collective memory as well as in the larger Philippine society.

It is equally fitting to recognize the current institutional leadership headed by Dr. Virginia A. Miralao, whose intelligence, work ethic, temperament, practical skills, and above all, a great sense of humor, have tremendously helped make PSSC the great institution that it is today. Among other great achievements, Jean has developed a high-caliber staff that continues to produce top-quality work for the benefit of academe and other institutions, public and private. The staff currently headed by Joanne Agbisit (technical section) and Dolores Cruz (finance section), and Karen Barrios who singlehandedly attends to PSSC’s desktop work and Ernie Acosta who oversees the PSSCenter, will carry on the great work that PSSC has started into the future on behalf of the social sciences. They are definitely wonderful people and world-class personnel. The Board of Trustees and PSSC’s various funders should also be commended for investing precious time and resources on the institution over the years. They can see the handsome results of their efforts and “investment” just by the impressive appearance itself of the PSSC infrastructure and the various units and programs that are now under its wing.

I cannot say enough about the good work that PSSC has done since the beginning. But what a great success story!

Rubies, Anniversaries and Marriages



JOHN BEATON
Secretary General,
Association of Asian Social
Science Research Councils

On behalf of the fifteen national social science organisations represented in the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC), it gives me great pleasure to offer 40th Anniversary congratulations to the Philippine Social Science Council.

PSSC, like its many collaborating institutions in our region, brings together and bonds social scientists from many fields of research who have few other opportunities to engage in debate and to learn from peers across disciplinary boundaries. In this sense, PSSC has provided the opportunity for a kind of pluralist 'marriage' of disciplines and member organisations. If this were indeed a marriage it would be recognised as the Ruby Anniversary. Appropriately, the gemstone Ruby symbolises an inner flame that keeps relationships viable, strong, and even passionate. PSSC has provided that role for its members, and the wedding can be said to be successful, even thriving.

Importantly, PSSC was a foundation member in 1973 of AASSREC, the first regional organisation of social science councils spreading the network of collaboration across the Asia Pacific region. An unheralded but very important part of PSSC's activities has been its service to AASSREC. In 1994, PSSC took on the Secretariat of AASSREC, providing crucial support and guidance to the organisation as it made the transition from UNESCO establishment support to being fully self-funding.

PSSC provided much more than secretariat service, steering and supporting the membership through its organisational evolution and a series of increasingly productive biennial conferences. Those conferences, thanks to the PSSC staff became hosted and primarily supported by the member nations on a rotational basis engaging on a topic of regional importance, framed in concept by the host nation and reflected in presentations of member nation delegates.



Drs. John Beaton and Leon Mann, Executive Director and Past President, respectively of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA).



PSSC delegates Ronald Holmes, Joseph Puyat, Joanne Agbisit, Monette Jimenez and Virginia Miralao together with member-nation delegates to the 2003 AASSREC Biennial Conference in Canberra, are hosted by Governor-General Michael Jefferey and wife Marlana Jeffery.

Importantly, while PSSC is officially credited with supporting and nurturing AASSREC, it is important to recognise the people in the PSSC Secretariat who are largely responsible for AASSREC's current vitality. Virginia Miralao, Emma Porio, Ronald Holmes, Lorna Makil, Joanne Agbisit, Monette Jimenez and other PSSC staff have helped build AASSREC, kept it running smoothly and have provided bright and enthusiastic faces at AASSREC's meetings and Conferences for the past twelve years.

The responsibility for the AASSREC Secretariat passed to the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in 2005, and it pleases all AASSREC member nations that PSSC will continue to be an active member of AASSREC and supportive of AASSREC's social science contributions to international well being and good will.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Dr. Miralao and her colleagues at PSSC who set a fine example as the AASSREC Secretariat and always provided me with generous and very professional advice. They set a high standard that we will try to continue.

Organisations, if I may be permitted to use the marriage analogy again, survive and become strong by a bit of good planning, a small share of luck, and a very large portion of generous commitment by people. AASSREC and its member nations most warmly thank the people of the Philippine Social Science Council for their continued and most generous commitment. We all anticipate seeing your Council continue to prosper and we look forward to helping you celebrate your Golden Anniversary in a short ten-years from now.



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It is with pleasure, and indeed, I am honored to extend my felicitations to the esteemed Philippine Social Science Council as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

The Japan Foundation, Manila and the Philippine Social Science Council have had a number of fruitful cooperative projects over the past several years. In line with the JFM and PSSC's common goal of promoting knowledge creation and dissemination, JFM has supported some of PSSC's major conferences including the 4th National Social Science Congress convened by the Council in Quezon City in 1998, and the 19th International Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA) Conference which it hosted at the Manila InterContinental Hotel in Makati in November 2006.

The JFM also gladly extended collaborative efforts with PSSC in the publication of two recent works marking the 50th year of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Japan and the Philippines. These are *Annotations of Selected Works and Publications on Philippine-Japan Exchanges and Relations* and *Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Southeast Asia: Progress and Challenges through Half-a-Century*. Both works remain good reference materials for scholars of Philippines/Southeast Asia – Japan Studies, and for researchers who intend to pursue area studies on the Asian region.

Furthermore, in between projects, JFM and PSSC have sustained ties through participation in each other's activities, be it a conference, a lecture, or a cultural event.

The Japan Foundation, Manila is thus looking forward to a long lasting partnership with the Philippine Social Science Council.



TSUTOMU "Ben" SUZUKI
Director, Japan Foundation
Manila Office



ISSC and PSSC: Celebrating 40 years of Scientific Endeavour



HEIDI HACKMANN
ISSC Secretary-General

The International Social Science Council (ISSC), to which PSSC is affiliated, was started in 1952, and is based in UNESCO in Paris, France.

ISSC links together, at world level, different kinds of organizations: (1) Associations such as the *international* bodies for social scientists in different disciplines (sociologists, economists, psychologists, etc); (2) *national* academies or research councils, across the different disciplines; and (3) a range of bodies of various kinds who associate rather more loosely with the ISSC than the members in categories (1) and (2).

The Philippine Social Science Council falls into category 2, which means it is a full member of ISSC.

ISSC is currently in the midst of a renewal program, stretching in Stage 1 from 2007 to 2010, aiming to highlight the presence and authority of social science on the world stage. The two major foci of this program will be

- The World Social Science Forum (WSSF), in Norway in May 2009, and
- The World Social Science Report (WSSR), due out late in 2009.

The WSSF will be the first-ever event of its kind, featuring Plenary sessions addressed by several of the world's most eminent social scientists, including Nobel Prize winners Amartya Sen and Rajendra Pachauri. Some 25 "parallel" sessions will provide a forum for discussion of a very wide range of relevant and current topics, from social challenges like Global Warming to professional challenges in the work of social scientists such as — to paraphrase one of the WSSF session titles — "what data do we need for effective scientific endeavour, and how do we get to it?".

The overall theme of the WSSF will be: "One Planet, Worlds Apart," which — as the title implies — looks at the social divisions that challenge our common humanity. The World Social Science Report has a similar focus, on the theme "Knowledge Divides," and will track the local, national, and regional forms of knowledge production, noting the character of the many inequalities and examining their causes.

Alongside the headline activities of ISSC, such as the WSSF, there will be an ongoing drive for more effective linkages for social scientists through work/research on areas of common focus and the strengthening of regional social science hubs

For the Philippine Social Science Council, there is the challenge, for the near future, to participate more actively in ISSC not only at the International level, via the WSSF in Norway, but also through developing stronger regional links across Asia. The development of ISSC's Regional structures is a clear and abiding priority in the ISSC renewal plan, and through this, to enhance social science capacity in the locations where the social challenge of global inequality is most profound.

ISSC therefore looks forward to working together with PSSC in meeting these many challenges. On this important occasion, as PSSC celebrates 40 years, ISSC President Gudmund Hernes, Secretary-General Heidi Hackmann, Executive Committee, and its Staff, would like to extend to PSSC their congratulations on the work done to date, and their very best wishes for the future.

Further information, and details of the WSSF and WSSR, can be found on the ISSC website: www.unesco.org/ngo/issc.

Fast Forward

Member-associations speak on their vision and aspirations
for their respective disciplines and
PSSC in the coming years

	<p>Given 21st century realities and transformations, what do you see to be the likely directions and/or relevance of Philippine social sciences in general and your discipline in particular in coming years?</p>	<p>What can your organization do to encourage young people's interest in the social sciences and ensure the quality training of successor generation of Filipino social scientists?</p>
<p>LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES (LSP)</p>	<p>PSSC will continue to be relevant to linguistics since the field continues to link up and interact with other fields such as media, politics, law, and history.</p> <p>Given our country's present state, the social sciences must continue to exert their potential for research, in aid of informing social policies and decisions.</p>	<p>LSP keeps an eye on issues of national importance, such as those related to the languages of learning.</p> <p>LSP can continue to organize conferences that will reach out to young professionals and even be more active in giving regular workshops to ensure quality training of Filipino social scientists.</p>
<p>PHILIPPINES COMMUNICATION SOCIETY (PCS)</p>	<p>With the 21st century emerges Knowledge Society where basic literacies are no longer adequate to be competitive and to survive. Now we need information literacy, digital literacy, and media literacy. The different social sciences, anchored by communication, should provide the paradigms, methods, and tools for equipping individuals with these new literacies. The different social sciences are challenged to contribute in building an inclusive knowledge society where gender, economic status, age, cultural background, or physical fitness are not barriers to access and use knowledge.</p>	<p>Today's YouTube generation is already adept with new information communication technologies, especially in terms of their use and manipulation. What is needed is to encourage young people to take serious interest in studying the processes and impact of these new media on individuals and societies. The PCS has helped revise the communication curricula and introduced a number of courses that employ ICT not only as teaching-learning tools and subject of study. Even teachers and students from allied and new fields of digital media and multimedia arts are encouraged to view their courses not only as crafts but also as social processes.</p> <p>Beyond the traditional mass media, communication students are also encouraged to consider new communication channels as venues for internship and areas of in-depth study for their thesis — focusing on emerging theories, processes and impact.</p> <p>Understanding ICT goes beyond the confines of the communication discipline. The other social sciences also provide important lenses in understanding ICT and therefore may introduce ICT-related courses in their curricula.</p>





	<p>What are the aspirations of your organization in the foreseeable future, and how do you see your organization contributing to the growth of PSSC and the social science community?</p>	<p>What do you envision as the role/niche of PSSC in the next few years?</p>
	<p>LSP has always endeavored to professionalize linguistics as a field. It will continue to do so, following the footsteps of the stalwarts of Philippine linguistics. It hopes to be a role model for other member organizations in terms of research practice and the careful organization of lectures, fora, conferences, and the like.</p>	<p>PSSC will continue to help member organizations in sustaining their research interest, with keen interest on old and young professionals who are discovering yet more research challenges.</p>
	<p>With an ICT-driven Knowledge Society, the PCS should play an active if not forefront role in examining both lingering and emerging social issues such as access and right to information, transparency, intellectual property rights, cross-cultural conflict, etc. Many social issues also require communication interventions — dialogue, mediation, negotiation, etc.</p> <p>In the past, the communication discipline seems to have been sidelined for being narrowly viewed as relating only to mass media and the allied professions of public relations and advertising. The PCS will convene policy forums on global, national, and local communication issues to emphasize the discipline's broad coverage and wide constituency. It will document, using multimedia channels, communication interventions in important global and national issues, e.g., peace process, sustainable development advocacy, etc. It will encourage more research on ICT and even mass media which has been revolutionized lately by media convergence.</p>	<p>PSSC's unique feature is its ability and capability to foster a multidisciplinary approach in research and professional practice. Current and emerging social issues can no longer be viewed from a narrow or single disciplinary lens. PSSC must regularly convene multidisciplinary forums where outputs can contribute in policy advocacy and development, theory building, research agenda setting, and professional publications (print and online).</p> <p>PSSC must continue to challenge the different associations to continuously upgrade their profession — to be of better service to Philippine society and to develop world-class Filipino social scientists.</p> <p>The Council should take advantage of new media in encouraging Filipino social scientists from various parts of the globe to participate in PSSC project activities through video conferencing, online publications, social networking, and other Internet applications.</p> <p>Outstanding Filipino social scientists have been appointed to leadership positions in government, business and industry, academe, civil society organizations, etc. We envision PSSC to help develop a brand of young social scientists committed to the highest degree of professionalism and the best interest of their country.</p>



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<p>PHILIPPINE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (PGS)</p>	<p>Geography as one of the holistic disciplines of social sciences in the country has contributed to the understanding of a number of global and national processes that define the diverse components of Philippine society today. For instance, practitioners of Geography have actively participated in the delineation of Philippine regions. Geographers have been employed in human settlement planning, particularly in the formulation of physical and socioeconomic profiles and comprehensive land-use plans at various territorial levels.</p> <p>At the national level, Geography has found application in the periodic drawing up of the National Physical Framework Plan that compliments the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. Recently, the President has proposed the desirable transfer of the seat of operations of certain departments to regions where they will be more useful. These are just some of the development-related contributions of the field geography in the country.</p> <p>A whole world of possibilities remains open to geography particularly in the pursuit of sustainable development that has to confront the challenge of global warming, and ozone layer depletion. Geography has also helped in mapping out the significance and implications of Filipino migration and the transformations of rural landscapes. It has addressed different levels of vulnerability to, and strengthened the levels of resilience of Filipino communities against, the onslaughts of natural and manmade disasters. Geography is now at the forefront of the Information and Computer Technology age with its space-based methodologies of Geographic Information Systems, Remote Sensing, Global Positioning System, and digital cartography. It provides a global perspective on the external and internal causes of underdevelopment.</p>	<p>PGS members give lectures and hold teachers' workshops and training-seminars among elementary, high school and college teachers in different regions of the country in the past few years. These workshops and seminars provide venues for discussions on the most recent discourses, theoretical developments, methodologies and applied components of the many sub-fields of Geography.</p> <p>Related to the mission of popularizing geography is the goal of PGS to promote the institution of academic programs in Geography among the tertiary schools in the country. Only the University of the Philippines-Diliman offers a baccalaureate course and a graduate program in geography. PGS supports the objective of the Department of Geography to institute geography undergraduate courses in other UP units. However, a long-term goal of PGS is the institution of geography baccalaureate course or even the regular offering of geography courses in other social science departments and state colleges and universities in the country. Many universities in Metro Manila already offer 3-unit courses in geography as part of the requirements in their social science curricula but PGS joins the Department of Geography in its move to encourage other social sciences departments in the country to offer additional geography courses (e.g. computer-based geography courses that instruct digital mapping technologies).</p> <p>The society has its own recognized junior organization, the Junior Philippine Geographical Society. JPGS members maintain their interest on equipping themselves and young students in many secondary schools in Metro Manila not only with traditional knowledge in geography but also digitally-based geographic tools, such as the GIS, Remote Sensing, and the GPS.</p> <p>PGS aims to motivate undergraduate geography students to undertake research in the many sub-fields of geography. PGS entices students to participate in conferences, such as in the PGS' annual national conference, by organizing specific panels for student papers and providing them with funding support to present their research papers.</p>

<p>What are the aspirations of your organization in the foreseeable future, and how do you see your organization contributing to the growth of PSSC and the social science community?</p>	<p>What do you envision as the role/niche of PSSC in the next few years?</p>
<p>Geographers and members of PGS have to undertake more research, teaching and extension services that are relevant to national development effort. PGS should try to mobilize the immense brain power among its members to serve national goals and initiate a movement for national value reorientation, particularly among the young, and actively make representations with the national government. There is a need to focus on how disciplinary knowledge and methodologies can be employed for achieving a high quality of life for the Filipino people. A crucial point would be to enhance further geographic and social sciences connections with the practitioner realm at the ground level with community-based and NGO initiatives.</p> <p>Today, even college graduates hardly know anything about Philippine geography and other World geographies. Given the increasing interconnectedness of the many 'geographies' of production and consumption, cultural exchanges, and socio-political influences between and among different regions in the world, however, this geographic illiteracy needs to be addressed in the Philippine educational system.</p> <p>PGS aims to promote and revive the popularity of the discipline of Geography all over the Philippines at a level comparable to that of the European Countries' tradition. The Society recognizes the need for Geography to stand as a subject separate from the Makabayan course at the elementary and secondary levels of education. Thus, in the past decades PGS members have consistently promoted the teaching of Geography in the Philippine Educational System. It undertakes this task in collaboration with the faculty members of the Department of Geography of the University of the Philippines.</p>	<p>Macro transformations that are driven by forces of globalization include physical changes in the climate system, ecology and hydrology of different biomes, and perceptible modifications in the socio-cultural, political and economic values of individuals, cultural groups, and institutions. Many of these changes are driven by numerous aspirations to control and benefit from the earth-based and human resources, which are often used to entrench one's position in the hierarchy of power at the local, regional, national, and international levels. Control over these earth-based and human resources are crucial in maintaining one's hold over seats of representation in the many centers and peripheries of power structures and decision-making machineries.</p> <p>PSSC and PGS should exert more effort in addressing the above-mentioned challenges. They should be a palpable voice on social issues that affect the country, particularly on concerns that pertain to the long-standing goal of achieving sustained accelerated socioeconomic development and resource management. PSSC and PGS have long been inward-looking and myopic in their vision and goals. They have not taken stands on raging issues of the day. It is fine that they hold their annual conferences and come out with regular publications, but both have not embarked on programs and projects that give them prominence and weight in national public affairs. We hear, for instance, of a group of UP professors from the School of Economics conspicuously publishing their solid stand on many economic issues of import to national life and the whole country takes note of their message. PSSC and PGS can do something along this line.</p> <p>However, it must be mentioned that pursuing the above role is easier said than done. It is difficult for PSSC and PGS to craft a common stand when issues of national import arise because of the multiplicity of disciplinary opinions and viewpoints among the members of PGS and the member-organizations of PSSC. Coordinating a diverse set of individuals and different member-societies to make them take a unified position is a difficult task. Perhaps an innovative strategy may be devised on how consensus in position formulation can be arrived at expeditiously. This is the challenge to PSSC and PGS which can help shape the course of Philippine socioeconomic development in the coming years. For both organizations, it is a role devoutly to be wished for.</p>

	<p>Given 21st century realities and transformations, what do you see to be the likely directions and/or relevance of Philippine social sciences in general and your discipline in particular in coming years?</p>	<p>What can your organization do to encourage young people's interest in the social sciences and ensure the quality training of successor generation of Filipino social scientists?</p>
<p>PHILIPPINE POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (PPSA)</p>		<p>PPSA must encourage younger people to be interested in the social sciences. It should train the successor generation of Filipino social scientists by providing them the array of concepts, theories, and frameworks in political science and illustrating how to use these in analyzing challenges to Philippine politics and governance, in training political science teachers nation-wide through extension service in new disciplinal developments as well as relevant teaching and research methodologies, and in giving younger people opportunities through roundtable discussions, public fora, conferences, and publications to develop their research interests. PPSA is now exploring more stable links nationwide with political-science student organizations to encourage younger people to get interested in the discipline not only as students but to aspire in joining the professional community of scholars later on.</p>
<p>PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (PSPA)</p>		<p>We should continue to offer intelligent and understandable analysis of contemporary governance concerns, including government reorganization, decentralization, federalism, corruption, etc. We should propose reforms from the perspective of the social sciences.</p>



	<p>What are the aspirations of your organization in the foreseeable future, and how do you see your organization contributing to the growth of PSSC and the social science community?</p>	<p>What do you envision as the role/niche of PSSC in the next few years?</p>
		<p>PSSC has the leadership role in making the different social science disciplines more professional and relevant in contributing to the development of the country and society. It should continue cultivating cooperation among the different social science communities and disciplinal associations to work on social problems and develop multidisciplinary research, instructional materials, and other activities. Together with the member associations, PSSC should also encourage younger people to join the social science community of professionals by developing relevant instructional materials and programs as well as providing more opportunities for development as teachers and researchers.</p>
		<p>Networking. Analysis and publication of governance — and certainly, social science concerns including corruption, leadership, decentralization, government reform, etc.</p>



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PHILIPPINE SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY (PSS)	With the emerging knowledge economy in the 21st century, the PSS, with support from PSSC, has to make the Philippine sociological community more visible in the local-global arena. This can be done through PSSC's support for knowledge production—the regular publication of its journal, the Philippine Sociological Review as well as support for the participation and visibility of sociologists in international conferences/forums.	PSS, under the rubric of PSSC, has created a dedicated space for young sociologists through: 1) its annual national conference, 2) regular publication of the Philippine Sociological Review, 3) commitment to publish works of young, promising sociologists, 4) regular training and outreach program for young sociologists and those in the provinces.
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PAP)	Philippine social science has always been an applied discipline. I expect that Filipino social scientists will continue to engage different social problems actively. However, I anticipate that social scientists will do more multidisciplinary work with natural scientists, medical scientists, engineers, as many of our social concerns require multifaceted solutions. I also anticipate more Filipino social scientists doing collaborative work in international networks, since many problems are likely to be "distributed" in varied geographic spaces, with knowledge production becoming similarly "distributed." These two developments will have a profound effect on how Filipino social scientists theorize about the Filipino experience.	It is important for each generation of Filipino psychologists to take responsibility for the development of the next generation. Yet, then or now, I'm not sure if we're doing it well. Also, I am not sure if the PAP considers this responsibility as a priority. One thing that the PAP can do is to provide good role models through more experienced and relatively young psychologists, with a very clear interest in working with younger people. And then, experiential activities can complement the more formal training in graduate programs. I do think that there is a lot that could be done to improve the quality of the psychology graduate programs in the Philippines.





<p>What are the aspirations of your organization in the foreseeable future, and how do you see your organization contributing to the growth of PSSC and the social science community?</p>	<p>What do you envision as the role/niche of PSSC in the next few years?</p>
<p>PSS aspires for the following: (1) that the Philippine Sociological Review (PSR) shall be part of the International Social Science Index, (2) to regularly hold its annual conference in different parts of the country, (3) to provide regular outreach programs to sociologists and social science faculty/ researchers in other parts of the country. By supporting these PSSC activities and programs, we hope to strengthen the research, teaching and other professional skills of the social science community in the country. In the process, we support PSSC's vision of building a strong, dynamic social science community in the Philippines and in the region.</p>	<p>PSSC continues to be a stronger voice for social scientists in the nation, the Asia Pacific region, and the world.</p>
<p>I can think of three important aspirations. First, the PAP must become a truly "national" association, as it has been very Manila-centric. It should reach out more to psychologists from the various provinces — with programs to develop or strengthen regional centers for research and professional development. Second, the PAP needs to take a stronger lead in developing Philippine theorizing in psychological science and practice. We do have good researchers but I don't think Philippine psychologists have been as strong as they could be in developing basic and applied psychological theory. Third, I would like to see a stronger presence for Philippine psychologists in the global scene. I think we are good, and we need to share what we have, particularly in the Asian region.</p>	<p>In the coming years, PSSC should "push" the associations more strongly in terms of developing their respective disciplines and professions. This work started in the last decade, but in the future, PSSC should articulate higher benchmarks of accountability in terms of developing quality, meaningful, and useful research and publications, promoting advanced, relevant, and ethical practices, and building stronger ties with community groups, government, and other stakeholders. At some point, perhaps this will cause some hemorrhaging for some associations, but PSSC should be able to provide the necessary support for these associations to come out stronger.</p>



PSSC-UGAT Partnership in Social Science-based Advocacy: Briefly Noted

PONCIANO L. BENNAGEN

Ugnayang Pang-Aghamtao, Inc.

Personally, I'd like to think that UGAT and the PSSC have had a most mutually beneficial, if occasionally unproductive partnership. For one, UGAT, with the generous support of PSSC, has been able to hold its regular annual national conference since 1979. In particular, PSSC has expanded its range of publics through UGAT's involvements in issues and activities concerning indigenous peoples.

Sabi nga ng mga taga PSSC: kung hindi sa UGAT, hindi namin malalaman na ang dami pala nating "tribu"; at hindi namin sila makikilala. This was said during those days when members from various ethnolinguistic groups would come to PSSC to participate in various activities, organized by UGAT, with support from PSSC. In some of these activities, indigenous leaders and youth have been able to directly speak not only to social scientists but also to national policy makers.

Lately, PSSC has been using the national conferences of its members as opportunities for income generation by selling its publications. I am not sure, though, whether UGAT conferences have been helpful in this regard since anthropologists and other UGAT participants are known to be generally poor — we all know that anthropologists, with very few exceptions, are *overworked but underpaid!*

When Ugnayang Pang-Aghamtao (better known as UGAT; also, the Anthropological Association of the Philippines) was officially admitted to the Philippine Social Science Council in 1979, it brought to PSSC, among other things, its advocacy for the indigenization/Filipinization of the social sciences in general and anthropology in particular. But it also brought its social advocacy for human rights and democracy and for the rights of indigenous peoples.

But one may ask, what are the sources of UGAT's commitment to social advocacy? From many wellsprings some of which must have run dry, after all these years of too-rapid and unexpected social changes. But of one thing I am sure — the temper of the times and the way we were taught and learned and practised anthropology.

Ever since we were told in graduate school in the late '60s that culture, according to Edward B. Tylor in his 1871 work, is "that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, law, morals, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man (sic) as a member of society," we started to think of the holistic approach as the standard methodology in studying society and culture. The view of culture has changed since then

from the Tylorian whole to something else, but at that time, holism was the methodological canon for fieldwork. Suddenly, holism became operational as a tool kit for use in the field by graduate students dazed in the limbo of the requisite rite des passage, otherwise called fieldwork. Now, this rite of passage requires protracted stay in the field, or research community, preferably during one annual cycle doing participant-observation — *nakikiugaling pagmamasid* — as I called it during my own fieldwork in Palanan, Isabela. This protracted stay is sometimes referred to as immersion, the better to connect it to other rites associated with conversion from one state/status to another. I look back at my own rite of passage among the Agta of Palanan, Isabela as a highly effective training for critical sensitivity to the variability, complexity and directionality of the human condition.

This rite of passage — a combination of holistic approach and protracted participant-observation — therefore, is a potent process-formula for personal transformation in the way one looks at oneself, the other and the rest of the world and in the way we link the present with the past and the future. Wittingly or unwittingly, this must have been the case with the anthropologists and related professionals who met several times in 1977 to organize themselves into the Ugnayang Pang-Aghamtao.

And so, in the UGAT Constitution and By-laws, members are asked, among other things, to “promote, deepen the knowledge, understanding and participation of and among different ethnolinguistic groups in working towards an integrated national consciousness and development.” Moreover, the members are to be guided by what is now known as “free and prior informed consent”: An anthropologist must be scientifically objective (truthful) and relevant to national and community goals, sincere to his community and obliged to explain to them the objectives and implications of his research, to

listen to criticism by his host community of the research he has conducted, and eventually to provide them a copy of his work, ideally in their language, for the host community would be the final arbiter of his research.

Upon admission to PSSC as a regular member, UGAT started to build on the disciplinary stocking exercise it did for its first national conference; and with the help of PSSC, thru its Conference grant, continues to address timely and relevant social issues and themes, most notable of which have been issues involving human rights, democracy, and especially the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination.

I am sure that the other social science organizations themselves were — and still are — also concerned, no less passionately, with social issues. In fact, playing its role as social advocate, in the language of Dr. Boni Salamanca in his *The Philippine Social Science Council: The First 25 Years*, PSSC started its National Social Science Congress in 1983. Since then, the National Social Science Congress has been held every five years to address issues of national significance. But UGAT continued to focus on social issues not only in their regular annual conferences but also in other activities jointly held with PSSC, in between the national conferences. Also I would bring to PSSC meetings stories of human rights violations gathered during our fieldwork. Thus when PSSC established the Social Issues Committee (SICom) in 1984, as a special committee of the Governing Council and the Executive Board, the responsibility of chairing it fell on UGAT. If I remember right, it was Dr. Loretta M. Sicat, then the Executive Director, who suggested, in mock seriousness, that UGAT should chair the SICom, since UGAT itself has become a social issue, or words to that effect!

Desirous of influencing policy reforms grounded on social science research so as to transform society, PSSC, thru the SICom, created in 1984 a program called “Forum Series on Society and Government,” to which were invited members

of the Batasang Pambansa. In addition to the formal papers, the SICom also issued “statement of concerns” regarding various social issues. Not much came out of the “Forum” because attendance from the targeted audience — the members of the Batasang Pambansa, or the Parliament of the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos, otherwise known as “*Marcos, diktador, tuta!*” by members of the so-called “parliament of the streets,” — dwindled from ten during the first forum to one during the third or last.

Because of this effort, SICom decided to reach out directly to the people thru their organizations. This led to the organization of the “Resources for the People Program (RPP),” which was meant to provide a catalytic role for social scientists in linking GOs, NGOs, POs and in improving NGO participation in planning and policy making. Again, I am not sure whether this effort bore any enduring concrete output. But we in the PSSC-RPP were told that NEDA, in 1990, issued Board Resolution No. 6 and Memorandum Order No. 195 addressing the recommendations of the PSSC-RPP to strengthen the participation of NGOs in the Regional Development Councils of NEDA.¹

Other advocacies come to mind but space limitations allow us to cite only a few. Let me end on a very personal note by way of a much belated public acknowledgement to PSSC for all its support to UGAT through all these years, and to me personally during the days of drafting the 1987 Philippine Constitution and including the educational campaign for its ratification. Then, PSSC offered its expertise and facilities for members of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, but especially for Commissioners Florangel Braid, Wilfrido Villacorta and myself, all members of the Philippine Social Science Council. The position papers prepared by PSSC all proved helpful. I clearly remember asking Commissioner Villacorta to draft a proposed provision on the right to information based on a paper prepared by PSSC and sent to me by Dr Carolina Hernandez. The right to information involving public policy is now part of the Bill of Rights of the 1987 Philippine Constitution (sec 7, Art. 11).

Sa kanyang ika-40 kaarawan, maraming salamat sa PSSC. At sana patuloy ang kanyang pagiging masugid na pagganap ng tungkulin bilang isang pribadong organisasyon ng mga social scientists na may tungkuling pampubliko.

¹ Please see, PSSC-RPP, n.d., Forum Series or Development: Towards Better NGO Participation in Planning and Policy Making, Philippine Social Council – Resources for the People Program.

The Philippine National Historical Society in the 21st Century

BERNARDITA REYES CHURCHILL

Philippine National Historical Society, Inc.

The Philippine National Historical Society (PNHS) was founded in February 1941—sixty-seven years ago last February this year. In the historical life of the nation, the PNHS has been through World War II (1941-1945), the restoration of the Commonwealth Government (1945-1946), and the establishment of the independent Philippine Republic (1946).

Surviving the horrors of war and the tremendous tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction (including psychological and spiritual regeneration), the history of the Philippines saw the growth of the nation, with its high and low points, including the repressive years of the imposition of martial law and its end through People Power in 1986. The country's history has crossed to the 21st century with hopes and expectations that the lessons of history would guide the country towards an ever-brighter future for its people.

The Philippine National Historical Society had a simple mission and vision when it was founded in 1941 — to study and record the country's past so that historical experience and memory would

enable its people to live a meaningful life and plan for a glorious future for the nation. It saw the task of historians to write history and expand the frontiers of historical knowledge in all its various aspects — political, socio-economic, cultural, intellectual, and aesthetic.

The initial focus of Filipino historians was on national history, as the country needed an anchor for its national identity after the colonial experience under Spain, the United States, and Japan. Eventually, the Filipino historian turned to a more realistic view of Filipino history which would go beyond the national — centered on Manila, the seat of politics and culture — to the periphery, the regions beyond Manila, to the provinces and towns where lived the bulk of the Filipinos. Hence the growth of local history studies, multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary in perspective and methodology, to portray the mosaic of Philippine cultural communities that comprised the nation.

In the 21st the Philippine National Historical Society will continue towards its efforts to expand research and study of local history that will

document the rich cultural (both tangible and intangible) and historical heritage of all Filipinos in the archipelago, not in the sense of portraying them as individual communities separate and apart from each other, but as significant parts of the totality that is the Philippine nation — in other words, to situate local history in the context of our national history.

The bigger mission for historians is to impart the lessons of our historical experience to our people, who sometimes forget our history, and especially to our youth, who need to know our history and who will inherit the legacy of the past and will take over future leadership. In this regard, the Philippine National Historical Society recognizes that beyond the classrooms, lessons in history can be imparted through informal processes in conferences, symposia, and seminars and through dissemination of historical knowledge through publications that will record studies in Philippine history.

Philippine history should not be narrowly focused only on itself. It is also important that, in this age of globalization and internationalism, the Philippines becomes a relevant player in the region (Southeast Asia and East Asia) and in the world. There is also a need to situate the Philippine historical experience in the context of the wider world beyond the archipelago.

The Philippine National Historical Society has compiled a large body of historical literature. It is probably timely that in the coming years, the Society should review and assess the output of its conferences (and the whole range of historical literature on the Philippines) for the following purposes: (1) to establish and clarify new data and theoretical concepts; (2) to provide the occasion for a high level of academic discourse in an atmosphere of collegiality and mutual respect (in view of the varying perspectives and methodologies advanced by other groups of historians and practitioners of historical research); and (3) to look into the theoretical foundations for a future research agenda. There is much that needs to be done in historical research.

The Philippine National Historical Society, as a charter member of the Philippine Social Science Council, will remain an active partner in the growth of PSSC, the lead social science organization in the country. The linkages that PSSC has established abroad and within the social science community in the Philippines are crucial in providing Filipino social scientists with the instrumentalities to make meaningful contributions to their respective disciplines and to the social sciences in general.

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