

SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION

Vol. 24 Nos. 3-4

July-December 1999

social sciences for the 21st century

*more than just cybertechnology,
the turn of the century demands
attention to ecological balance,
social equity, and humane development*

ALSO INSIDE: ❖ The Comprehensive Tax Reform Program: A Discussion
❖ PSSC News
❖ Allen Tan Writes on the IQ of Presidents

*Let our hearts be filled with
Peace and the Spirit of Sharing this Christmas*



SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION

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CONTENTS

EDITORIAL 4

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE: New Possibilities Towards Development

Andrew B. Gonzalez, FSC The Future of Social Sciences in the Philippines 5 **Ma. Concepcion P. Alfier** Government Support for the Social Sciences 11 **Lydia G. Tansinla** Towards Science and Technology Cooperation in the Asian Region 23 **Cesar M. Mercado** Social Technology Development for the 21st Century 28 **Edgardo J. Angara** A Sociology of the Heart 34

SYMPOSIUM: The Comprehensive Tax Reform Program 37

Milwida Guevara On Income Tax Reforms 37 **Dante V. Sy** On Tax Incentives 41 **Meliza Agabin/Luz A. Bautista** Public Opinion on Philippine Taxation 43

Reactions Benjamin Diokno 56 **Rene E. Ofreneo** 58

PSSC NEWS PSSC General Assembly Holds Midyear Meeting 61 **Regular Members Hold Annual Conferences** 63 **Vietnamese Social Scientists Visit** 64

ARTICLE **Allen L. Tan** How High an IQ Should a President Have? 65

COUNCIL MEMBERS: UP CLOSE **U.P. Statistical Center** 68 **Center for Legislative Development** 71 **Pambansang Samahang sa Sikolohiyang Pilipino** 72

THE PSSC Frank X. Lynch Library (New Acquisitions) 73

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The *PSSC Social Science Information* primarily seeks to serve as a clearing house for the exchange of information, documentation, research activities, and news on people involved in the social sciences. Since 1973, it has endeavored to be a regular and comprehensive inventory of information and a catalyst of discussion.

The views expressed by the authors of articles in this publication do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Philippine Social Science Council, Inc.

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THIS ISSUE of the *PSSC Social Science Information* features assessments and reflections on, as well as dreams and visions for Philippine social science shortly before the turn of the twenty-first century.

As a backgrounder, Bro. Andrew Gonzalez assesses the state of the social sciences and looks at the prospects for the thirteen disciplines represented in the Philippine Social Science Council. He observes that the disciplines which flourished over the years are those which "are tied up with a profession and therefore with employment other than teaching and scholarship." With the institutionalization of structures where social scientists can band and exert their influence, the professionalization, and eventual well-being of the disciplines, is likewise ensured. Examining the level of government support for the social sciences, the Alfiler paper describes and analyzes membership in scientific and collegial bodies, the resources provided for basic research in the social sciences, and the findings of a national survey of scientific and technological activities undertaken by the Department of Science and Technology. Based on these, the paper questions the rationale for the government's exclusion of the social sciences in the scientific career system for the public service. Significantly though, the Tansinsin paper explicitly recognizes the value of social science working closely with the natural sciences and admits that this is "gradually being recognized" by the Philippine government. It also discusses the Philippines' participation and membership in science organizations in Asia as a backdrop for assessing the wisdom of evolving another institution to carry out the goals of the Asian Conference on Scientific Cooperation. Going a step further, Cesar M. Mercado proposes a mechanism through which social science organizations in Asia

can develop social technologies which are "tested and documented social research data-based models, theories, concepts, frameworks, strategies, approaches, methods, tools and materials developed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of agencies and organizations in carrying out their mandate and functions." Wrapping up a vision for Philippine social science in the twenty-first century, Sen. Edgardo J. Angara envisions a social science that can capture human hopes and aspirations, even as it shows that it "cares and respects" and "empowers the downtrodden and lends voice to the unseen."

Can the social sciences in the Philippines empower the downtrodden and lend voice to the unseen, promote and develop social technologies which can benefit communities and people's organizations, even as they strive to promote professionalization and ensure the survival and well-being of the various disciplines?

YES, Philippine social science can be all these and even more. But it can do so only with the active and full support of key sectors of Philippine society. Thus government must recognize the value and potential contribution of social science in the development process by providing the necessary support and incentive system for social scientists and social science research. The institutions which host social scientists perform a major role in nurturing and recreating a community of social scientists for the society. However, the ultimate challenge is for us, social scientists, to continuously strive for excellence and relevance in our work, as we work hand in hand with all the other sectors in a collective effort to address the persistent problems of poverty and inequity in our society.

-Ma. Concepcion P. Alfiler

The Future of Social Sciences in the Philippines*

Andrew Gonzalez, FSC

The development of the social sciences in this country is very much patterned after their evolution in the United States, since our first generation of PhDs in the social sciences were, for the most part, trained abroad.

The social sciences started as an undifferentiated discipline dealing with social realities in the qualitative discipline of philosophy. In the history of the social sciences in this country, there have been successive differentiations from a qualitative type of investigation on man as a social being (which was really social philosophy, an offshoot of special ethics in the classical scholastic curriculum, for example, at the University of Santo Tomas) to traditional distinct disciplines such as history and economics as well as political science.

Later spin-offs, the result of recently arrived PhDs from the United States mostly at the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University in the 1960s, led to an assertion of the distinction of their specialties from other traditional disciplines in fields such as Psychology (distinct from Neo-Scholastic brand of Rational Psychology and differentiated from Educational Psychology as found in colleges of education, and Guidance and Counselling as found in schools offering counselling education programs).

Clinical psychologists soon distinguished themselves from the experimental psychologists for ideological and methodological reasons.

An older social science discipline, an applied one, was social work, which began as a profession early in this country; in the 1930s the Philippines began to have bright young women returning from abroad with degrees in social work, which was then considered a suitable profession for women.

The newer social science disciplines appeared in the late 1950s and 1960s in fields such as sociology and demography which were differentiated by their use of quantitative data using applied mathematics (statistics).

A similar development would apply to economics which slowly moved from a qualitative descriptive science as it was known in the 1940s to a quantitative science in the 1960s. Traditional economics in our country consisted mostly of public finance. It was tied up with aspects of geography which the Americans brought or what we would now call regional economics and macro-economics; the latter was treated in descriptive terms without the tools of statistical analysis and econometrics.

*Reprinted from the *PSSC Social Science Information*, Vols. 20(4)-21(1), October 1992-March 1993.

Later developments involved the introduction of public administration instead of law as suitable training for the civil service, and the introduction of anthropology and linguistics as disciplines in their own right, the former from the Philippine Studies program at the University of Chicago, the latter from linguistics and applied linguistics programs at the University of Michigan and University of California at Los Angeles. Communications came later as a specialization, an offshoot really of sociology.

It is interesting to note from the point of view of the sociology of knowledge which studies the successive differentiation of discipline professions in the academia, that the development is mirrored by a successive addition of new disciplines in the Philippine Social Science Council, which was founded on December 13, 1968 by pioneers in the fields of history, demography, anthropology, geography, economics, statistics, and psychology.

The Council is alive and well, has a donated building as its headquarters, and continues to provide services to the different member-associations through its Central Subscription Service, its library, its different publications and research programs, as well as public service activities.

Since the PSSC is based on organizations, no discipline can be represented until it has formed a viable organization. The formation of a viable organization is, in itself, an index of the maturity of the discipline and its practitioners in the country. On this criterion other organizations have joined the Council over the years: linguistics, social work, sociology, political science, anthropology, history (Philippine Historical Association in addition to Philippine National Historical Society), public administration, and communications, thus making up a fourteen-organization Council, the last to join being public administration and communications.

Based on observations of the growth of the sciences in any society, the pattern seems to be thus: a group of "practitioners" or avid students of the discipline meets and informally discusses their common interests and findings. The group then decides to form an organization and to organize "congresses" (this was the term in Europe) where papers are presented and eventually published as proceedings or as "transactions". Usually, they cluster around a charis-

matic leader who can be the intellectual guru of the group, or the group itself may be blessed with a superb organizer who might not be the best scholar but who is able to maintain the group together and make it productive. Social events such as wars and emigration or political displacements may lead the group to either totally disintegrate, in which case it would need another charismatic leader to resuscitate the group, or as the key members leave, if the group survives, it is because there are worthy successors who continue the work inspite of attrition due to transfer of countries (emigration), retirement (old age), and death.

In the history of many disciplines as they emerged, for example in Japan, it was a handful of self-starters who brought the discipline to a point of viability and eventual growth. Or, in the case of the Philippines, it could be centers of excellence cooperating together in consortium and establishing the disciplines and eventually institutionalizing them in universities and colleges. In the case of the social sciences, it was a fortuitous confluence of charismatic leaders who were world class researchers and social scientists in their own right, a coterie of disciples in their respective universities, a vision of working not for their institutions but for the profession and the discipline, and a compatible group which started the organization known as the Philippine Social Science Council.

PSSC has now become an institution, thanks to the generosity of various foreign donors and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) several years ago. The stability and growth of PSSC is likewise due to the leadership of the Council through a rotating Executive Board and discipline representatives on the Governing Council as well as on the Executive Board, and a succession of able administrators who have stabilized the administration of the Center and the Council. These matters about the Philippine Social Science Council should be brought up, since one foresees that it will continue to play a crucial role in the future of the social sciences in the Philippines.

Approaches to Forecasting

In the emerging specialization of futuristics, different techniques for academic crystal ball-gazing or predicting the future are used.

The simplest is the wish list or the aspirational statement of what one would like things to be; while this desiderative stance attracts sympathetic audiences, it is really not too useful in terms of knowledge since it does not really tell us anything about the future except present aspirations among influentials. My suspicion is that this is the stereotyped concept of futuristics among many of our friends. A United Nations University study many years ago, led by Salvador P. Lopez, used this technique.

Another approach, popularly known as the Delphi Technique, interviews influentials and policy makers in a society and asks them to make predictions; by showing each one's predictions to the others, the social dynamics of reaction and counter reaction eventually brings about a consensus that can lead to some predictions. The Asian Institute of Management has just completed a study about future business and social trends in Asia using this technique.

A third approach is more academically respectable. Based on past records, which can be quantified and graphed, one can fill in through extrapolation what the trends might be and how these trends will continue beyond the present, like an unfinished graph which one can continue based on what has been the pattern set thus far. This is probably the safest though the problem with this kind of forecasting is that it often fails to take into account all the variables that have to be factored in, including that most uncertain factor, the human one, and the decision-making powers of one individual or one group which could totally change the direction of the trajectory. Human freedom and the ability to make decisions, even if not all decisions are completely undetermined as the behavioral scientists aver, is nevertheless the monkey wrench in prediction machine which can throw the entire machine out of whack or to use a poetic description, "the best laid plans of mice and men oft go aglee" (Robert Burns).

For example, if we were to look at trends in the 1950s, we were assured then that the Philippines would be the first economic miracle of Asia and if we looked at the early 1970s, based on the American Ambassador William Sullivan's prediction that we

were going to be the next economic tiger, we should not be in the economic pits we are in at present. All it took was a greedy dictator who, in spite of his brilliance, was unable to understand the basic laws of economics and attempted to violate them with the unrealistic expectation that he could get away from it.

In the 1970s, the Development Academy of the Philippines produced a promising study of this kind entitled "Population, Resources, Environment and Philippine Future". A smaller study directed by Alejandro Herrin focusing on the environment has just been completed by the UP School of Economics using this technique.

Another approach is to use both qualitative and quantitative data and on the basis of these, to create different scenarios from which one can choose based on certain human decisions which must somehow be factored in. In such a case, the prediction is conditional and to my mind safer: IF...THEN... If certain types of decisions are taken which are more feasible for the society, THEN this could happen. If not, THEN something else can happen. Moreover, in this area, we can at best make what the British call "guesstimates", a portmanteau word from *guess* and *estimate*. I feel safer with guesstimates based on realistic scenarios.

The future of social sciences in the Philippines

I would like to make my guesstimates against the background of the techniques I have discussed and with the proper warnings or caveats that so many conditions are met, then the predictions will be either partially or completely wrong.

I would like to go through each of the disciplines rapidly and give my guesstimates based on what the state of the discipline is in our country at present and what seem to be the emerging trends.

My guesstimates are not based on extrapolations from empirical data since there is just not enough material to extrapolate from, although the PSSC, in its periodic reports to the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC) attempts to give state-of-the-art reports on each discipline in the country. These reports, however, are not compiled to yield statistical trajectories.

My own guesses are based on my knowledge of ongoing research through journals and reports and on the basis of my acquaintance with the leading social scientists in the country at least as of a few years ago. There are some bright new social scientists who have emerged since then, but since my involvement with the PSSC has become attenuated because of other commitments, I cannot admit to be totally up-to-date in some areas.

The presentation is thus informal, and not meant to be rigorous. In my view, the best developed among the social science disciplines in the country is economics, thanks to the massive inputs that foreign foundations and NEDA have given to the UP School of Economics, where there is now a critical mass of researchers to conduct world-class research. Many of these people are likewise involved as consultants at the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) at NEDA and therefore continue to give inputs to the National Economic Development Authority, which is the largest employer of economists in the country. Second are the banks. A poor third because of unattractive working conditions are universities such as Ateneo and De La Salle, besides UP, of course. In the two institutions, the main role of economics is to train intelligent employable economists to work as R&D (research and development) people at a middle level in many banks and companies and to attract for a short time teachers for the departments. Because the discipline and the profession have become institutionalized, one can expect continuing increases in numbers and the possibility of academia being able to attract more PhDs once the saturation point in banks and NEDA has been reached. This is rather crucial as the attrition of person-power in academic departments will mean eventual stoppage in the flow of economists for government and banks. If academic institutions are not adequately staffed, no new economist will emerge to take the place of those retiring or leaving the profession.

Social work will likewise continue to be in demand because of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, even if this department will be eventually merged with the Department of Health. Moreover, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) will continue to require the services of social workers. There are institutions which continue to graduate social workers besides the College of Social Work and Community Development at the University of the Philippines, Centro Escolar University and Philippine

Women's University train social workers, for example. What I am afraid of, however, is that this profession will no longer be attractive to the young Filipina; this will make quality control a problem.

One can likewise expect that because of the establishment of the profession and the continuing need for public administration workers in both national and local governments, the profession of public administrator is established enough to guarantee continuation especially through the graduate program in Public Administration of the University of the Philippines and Centro Escolar University, as well as one or two institutions outside of Manila. The need, however, is for public administration to receive new blood from the newer disciplines in management to train more developmentally-oriented public administrators. This the University of the Philippines College of Public Administration is attempting to do at present.

Because of the continuing need for statisticians in all offices (banks, insurance companies, R&D departments as well as academia), they will continue to be in demand; this need is being met not only by the UP Statistical Center but by graduate programs in applied mathematics under the UP-Ateneo-DLSU science consortium as well. One expects that statistics as a profession will be quite stable and continue to grow and that the country will be able to keep its statisticians better with funding for research and with access to mainframe computers which are now available in the Philippines as their necessary working instruments.

Similarly, based on the credibility of such institutions as the Social Weather Stations housed at PSSC and the national surveys done at the Asian Research Organization and similar research bodies, including commercial agencies for marketing research, one foresees that there will be a growing need for communications experts (in addition to statisticians and sociologists) ensuring a market for the more research-oriented communications major in contradistinction to the production media-oriented communication arts person who is not the focus of this talk.

Psychology will likewise continue to flourish not only because of the columns of Marjorie Holmes and the coming sexual revolution in the Philippines but also in areas such as psychiatry and counselling

therapy and in experimental work of an empirical nature, thanks to existing departments already offering graduate programs and the need for psychology as a core discipline in the liberal arts and in other courses in academia.

The other social science disciplines will be kept alive and will flourish because of their contributions to the liberal arts curriculum and higher education, which will continue to expand in the Philippines. The problem, however, with these disciplines is that unless there is better intervention through proper training programs of a new generation of specialists, the quality in these disciplines will deteriorate, if it has not already done so, because of many giants in these disciplines who have either retired or passed on.

The most neglected social science specialization is geography, which does not seem to have many practitioners at a senior level and little promise of replacement of the handful of giants who manned this discipline and kept it alive in the country.

History is in need of a new generation of De la Costas and Agoncillos; anthropology needs new Lynchses, Hollnsteins, and Manuels.

More stable because of the process of institutionalization and the flourishing of doctoral programs in one or two centers are the disciplines of sociology, demography, political science, and linguistics (mostly of the applied type, however, rather than the culturally more necessary historical and cultural anthropological type).

Summary and conclusions

Thus if I were to be asked, what is the future of social sciences in the Philippines, I would answer this:

Most of the social sciences are alive and well and their future looks bright, in particular, economics, demography, social work, public administration, statistics, communications. One foresees likewise continuing though modest progress in sociology, history, anthropology, political science, and psychology. In linguistics, the future is bright for applied linguistics and sociolinguistics (especially in the field of national language development) but rather bleak for historical and comparative linguistics and theoretical linguistics.

The bleakest scenario is reserved for geography which seems to follow the pattern of decline that this discipline has undergone in North America but not in the United Kingdom. Perhaps the only source of comfort is that the topics of geography are subsumed under disciplines such as geology (physical geography) especially because of mining, oil and other extraction industries in this country; economics (especially regional science which looks at the resources of the country in each region and in each province); physics (for climatology and solar research including earthquakes and weather conditions); physical anthropology (for different types of races and customs and ways of living of various types of men in different climes and regions, including past stages of man in his evolution).

One foresees an expansion of the disciplines in the sense that new graduate programs in other universities may be opened ensuring more manpower for teaching and for students. The offering of other programs in these institutions will arise as the need for specialization becomes clearer across time.

The future does not happen inexorably; it must be made to happen by the decisions of human beings, whether these decisions are rational or not. The positive predictions that I have made are based on the premise that as our policy-makers see the value and relevance of informed decisions, they will continue to see the relevance and importance of the social sciences and therefore the need for continuing and even expanded support. This was the philosophy behind the substantial support of the social sciences from NEDA during the directorship of Gerardo Sicat. This is likewise the rationale behind the continuing support of economists at the Philippine Institute of Development Studies under NEDA. It is finally the basis of the substantial support for the social sciences that the Ford Foundation gave in the 1970s and in the early 1980s and continues to provide today though on a more focused basis: population problems and social forestry projects. Finally, it is the awareness that in all physical development especially for energy projects, one needs to take into account the human problems in the possible displacement of people from their ancestral lands and even the burial grounds of their ancestors that make social factors so necessary to include in policy and decision-making. This is the reason why in the energy projects of the Department of Energy and in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the services of

anthropologists and sociologists continue to be required since environmental impact studies are crucial to the decision-making process and the implementation of the projects.

An insight that may be gathered from the individual social sciences, their present state, and their predicted future is that the various disciplines flourish best in this country when they are tied up with a profession and therefore with employment other than teaching and scholarship. The promise of a job and a specific professional role in society will attract the students necessary to build up the profession and its cadres and ensure the viability of graduate programs, both in research and teaching, and their proper staffing through the attraction of superior talents among actively researching social scientists.

The favorable condition of the profession will make it possible to recruit bright young people into the profession and to keep them there, if the promise of self-fulfillment and actualization through an academic lifestyle consisting of teaching and research as well as consultancies will be possible for them.

For there is nothing more essential to continue the discipline than the provision of a succession of investigators at various age levels to join the profession, through charismatic leaders whose legacy will be the development and the flowering of the profession and the ensurance of intellectual progeny through the graduate students trained in viable graduate programs in various centers of the country.

This is made possible only if there is institutionalization, that is to say, human agencies and enterprises of a stable and continuing nature which will provide the structures to which social scientists can ally themselves either in academic institutions, government agencies, and research institutes.

Thus what ensures the future of the profession and its well-being is precisely the professionalization of the disciplines, making it possible for groups of experts to band together, represent their interests, announce or profess their findings and continue their work through able assistants who in turn will be apprenticed as future scientists to take their place in the profession in the future.

The disciplines that have the best prospects are those that will ensure a definite role in society through the provision of jobs that can be filled only by trained social scientists.

Having said this, however, progress is not inexorable as human decisions of the misguided type or the consequences of earlier wrong decisions may destroy the prospects of a discipline if not on a national scale, then on the institutional scale. Witness, for example, the unfortunate demise of linguistics in one university once one of the centers of excellence in this discipline; now the department has been abolished with no prospect of resuscitation. Witness, too, the sad state of geography in the country. Departments come and go since they depend very much on the quality of men in these departments and the vision of the central administrators in supporting these disciplines; not to go ahead or progress is to retrogress.

What we have to ensure is that even if a discipline suffers attrition in one institution, that it will not suffer the same fate in another institution, for it is important that there be the "the faithful remnant" of the discipline who will keep it going inspite of institutional myopia. This will be possible through strengthening the profession independently of the academic institutions and through such honorary social science societies as Pi Gamma Mu, where loyalty is not to the department or even to the institution of one's affiliation but to the discipline itself and to its continuing progress for the life of the Filipinos.

Government Support for the Social Sciences: A Closer Look

Ma. Concepcion P. Alfiler

This paper describes and analyzes the nature of government support for the social sciences through an examination of 1) membership of social scientists in collegial and scientific bodies constituted to give recognition to outstanding scientists; 2) the coverage of scientific career system for the public service; 3) resources provided for basic research in the social sciences through the grants-in-aid program of the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCPP); and 4) the results of the recent national survey of scientific and technological activities undertaken by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Membership in Collegial and Scientific Bodies

The National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) of the DOST was created in 1976 to "give recognition to outstanding achievement in science and technology and to serve as a reservoir of competent scientific and technological manpower for the country." The Academy was vested with the additional function of serving as an advisory body to the President of the Republic and the Cabinet on policies covering science and technology through Executive Order 818 issued in 1982.

The NAST Charter limits its general membership to fifty at any given time. There are now 48 academicians, eight of whom are also national scientists. Of the 22 Filipinos conferred the title of National Scientist, four are distinguished social scientists. These are:

+Teodoro A. Agoncillo, *Litt D. (h.c.)*
(History)
Encarnacion Alzona, *Pb.D.*
(History)
Jose Encarnacion, Jr., *Pb.D.*
(Economics)

Alfredo V. Lagmay, *Pb.D.*
(Psychology)

A total of 68 Filipinos have been accepted as members of the National Academy of Science, including the following twelve social scientists:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1978 | Alfredo V. Lagmay, <i>Pb.D.</i>
(Psychology)
+Cecilio F. Lopez, <i>Dr. Phil.</i>
(Philippine Linguistics and
Oriental Studies)
Tito A. Mijares, <i>Pb.D.</i>
(Statistics) |
| 1979 | Encarnacion Alzona, <i>Pb.D.</i>
(History)
+Teodoro A. Agoncillo, <i>Litt D. (h.c.)</i>
(History)
Jose Encarnacion, Jr., <i>Pb.D.</i>
(Economics) |
| 1981 | +Amando M. Dalisay, <i>Pb.D.</i>
(Economics) |
| 1983 | Gelia T. Castillo, <i>Pb.D.</i>
(Rural Sociology) |
| 1985 | +Gregorio F. Zaide, <i>Pb.D.</i>
(History) |
| 1992 | Mercedes B. Concepcion, <i>Pb.D.</i>
(Demography) |
| 1995 | Ledestina V. Carpio, <i>Pb.D.</i>
(Public Administration)
Raul V. Fabella, <i>Pb.D.</i>
(Economics) |

The Scientific Career System for the Public Service

In 1983, President Marcos issued Executive Order 784 which reorganized the then National Science Development Board (NSDB) into the National Science and Technology Authority (NSTA). Section 19

of this Executive Order authorized the establishment of the Scientific Career System within the Civil Service. This career system was envisioned to be one where:

1. entrance to and career progression or career advancement in the scientific career service shall be based on qualification and merit;
2. parallel career paths will allow scientists to develop within their respective areas of expertise without having to change their status as scientists;
3. incentives and rewards will ensure attraction and retention of highly qualified manpower in the science and technology sector; and
4. other measures to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of the science and technology system will be adopted.

The NSTA and the Civil Service Commission were to be responsible for the establishment of this system. However, the rules and regulations which would govern the implementation of this section of the Executive Order on the scientific career system were not issued until after a full eight years later. By June 1980, the Scientific Career Council formally adopted the implementing rules and regulations and defined the scope of the career system to cover "scientific personnel with masteral or doctoral degrees in the natural sciences, agricultural sciences and other related disciplines as may be determined by the Scientific Career Council" (see Rules and Regulations Implementing the Merit System for Scientific Career System in Annex A). These rules enumerated the following areas of scientific activities covered by the career system: 1) natural sciences, 2) engineering and technology, 3) medical services, 4) agricultural sciences, 5) library and archival sciences; and 6) scientific and technical documentation.

The social sciences were explicitly excluded from the scientific career system for the public service under these implementing rules.

NRCP Support for Social Science Research

The National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) is expected to perform a number of functions. Foremost among these is its mandate to "stimulate and support research in the mathematical, physical, biological and social sciences and the humanities and the application of these disciplines to engineering, agriculture, medicine and related fields

with the object of advancing the frontiers of knowledge..." The NRCP operates through its twelve divisions, one of which is Division VIII (Social Sciences). A major component of NRCP's support for basic research is research funding extended through its grants-in-aid program. Table 1 below presents data on how this money is shared by the twelve divisions of the NRCP over the last five years. The social sciences' share of this fund was highest in 1993 when it received 9.6 percent of the total budget of the program. For 1994 and 1995, allocation for the social sciences continued to decline to just 7.9 percent and 7.1 percent of the total budget, respectively.

The National Survey of Scientific and Technological Activities

In 1993, the DOST and the National Statistics Office (NSO) sought to establish the amount of financial and human resources devoted to scientific and technological activities for the period 1989-1992. Four sectors were covered in this survey: private industries, nongovernment organizations, higher education, and the government. The NSO covered private industry and nongovernment organizations while the DOST did the survey on government and the higher education sectors. NSO's sampling frame was based on the list of establishments covered by the NSO Census of Establishments and the Annual Survey of Establishments. NEDA's list of NGOs and DOST's list of science foundations served as the sampling frame for the nongovernment sector. For the government sector, the DOST used the list of establishments and agencies performing research and development as indicated in the General Appropriations Act.

The basic concepts and definitions used in this survey were adopted from the Manual for Statistics on Scientific and Technological Activities as prepared by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The survey methodology and its key concepts were described in the integrative report which summarized the survey's findings ("National Survey of Scientific and Technological Activities: Integrative Report," DOST, 1995, typescript). For this paper, however, it may be useful to show how three key terms were defined: scientific and technological activities (STA), social science as a field of scientific activity, and scientific and technical (S&T) personnel.

Scientific and technological activities referred to "all systematic activities which are closely concerned with the generation, advancement, documentation and application of scientific and technological knowledge in all fields of science and technology." These activities may be broken down further into three broad categories: 1) research and experimental development (R&D), 2) scientific and technological services (STS), and 3) scientific and technical education and training (STET).

The social sciences as a field of scientific activity where R&D and S&T activities are carried out include

"anthropology (social and cultural) and ethnology, demography, economics, education and training, geography (human, economic and social), law, linguistics (excluding language studies based on set texts, which should be classified as humanities under ancient and modern languages and literature), management, political science, psychology, sociology, organization and methods, miscellaneous social sciences and interdisciplinary, methodological and historical S&T activities relating to subjects in this group. Physical anthropology, physical geography and psychophysiology should normally be classified with the natural sciences.

Table 1. National Research Council of the Philippines (Grants-in-Aid Program), 1991-1995 (in pesos).

Division	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
I Govt., Educ.					
& Int'l.	524.7	320.0	359.4	378.0	394.6
Policies	10.2	8.4	8.0	7.8	9.9
II Math.	332.7	320.0	359.4	498.5	292.0
Sciences	6.3	8.4	8.0	10.3	7.4
III Medical	359.0	320.0	359.4	292.0	232.6
Sciences	7.0	8.4	8.0	6.0	6.4
IV Pharma-	359.0	320.0	359.4	294.5	362.2
ceutical	7.0	8.4	8.0	6.0	9.2
Sciences					
V Biological	681.0	320.0	441.4	378.0	302.1
Sciences	13.2	8.4	9.8	7.8	7.6
VI Agri-					
culture	599.0	320.0	359.4	378.0	462.2
& Forestry	11.6	8.4	8.0	7.8	11.7
VII Eng. &					
Industrial	319.0	320.0	359.4	473.0	245.0
Research	6.2	8.4	8.0	9.7	6.2
VIII Social	379.0	320.0	431.6	383.6	285.9
Sciences	7.4	8.4	9.6	7.9	7.2
IX Physical	306.3	297.9	367.3	477.1	406.3
Sciences	6.0	7.8	8.2	9.8	0.3
X Chemical	586.0	320.0	359.4	400.0	328.1
Sciences	11.2	8.4	8.0	8.3	8.3
XI Humanities	344.7	320.0	359.4	578.0	252.2
	6.7	8.4	8.0	11.9	6.3
XII Earth	359.0	314.2	359.4	352.7	369.5
Sciences	7.0	8.2	8.0	7.2	9.3
Total	5,149.6 (100.00)	3,812.1 (100.00)	4,475.0 (100.00)	4,833.5 (100.00)	3,953.4 (100.00)

Aside from the social sciences, the five fields of scientific activity included in the survey are: 1) agricultural science, 2) engineering and technology, 3) medical sciences, 4) natural sciences, and 5) humanities.

Scientific and technical (S&T) personnel would refer to the "total number of people participating in S&T activities in an institution or unit, as a rule, paid for their services." This group consists of scientists and engineers, technicians and auxiliary personnel.

Survey Findings

Human Resources for STA. The survey revealed that for the period 1989-1990 an average of 14,886 personnel were involved in STA. Of this number, 9,504 were scientists and engineers; 1,312 were technicians; 3,037 were auxiliary personnel and 1,033 were unclassified personnel. In the social sciences alone, an average of 2,109 scientists were involved in STA activities. Of this number, an average of 1,137 were in higher education; 587 were in government; 382 were in nongovernment organizations; and three were in private industries.

R&D Expenditures. Tables 2 and 2a below present the results of the survey on R&D expenditures by field of scientific activity. It will be noted that these tables present data at constant 1985 prices and in current prices. These tables show that national R&D expenditures for the social sciences tended to decline from 17.4 percent of total R&D expenditures in 1989 to 14.7 percent in 1992. Over this period, national expenditures for social science R&D was lowest in 1991 when only 10.7 percent of total expenditures was devoted to the social sciences.

Tables 3 and 3a show which of the four sectors covered by the survey tended to spend more for social science research and development. Among the four sectors studied, government spent the most for R&D in the social sciences, accounting for an average of 51 percent of total expenditures. Nongovernment organizations came as a poor second, spending an average of 25 percent for social science R&D, as higher educational institutions posted a 22.5 percent average for the four-year period.

Of the four sectors, private industries spent the lowest at 1.5 percent of total funds allocated for social science research and development.

Table 2. Estimates of national R&D expenditures by field of scientific activity, 1989-1992
(at constant 1985 prices, in million pesos).

Sector/Field of Scientific Activity	1989	1990	1991	1992
Total	1,238.3	1,107.2	1,130.1	1,564.3
Agric Sci	371.1 (30.0)	394.4 (35.6)	444.7 (39.3)	497.9 (31.8)
Eng & Tech	245.3 (19.8)	185.6 (16.7)	192.7 (17.0)	303.6 (19.4)
Med Science	17.6 (9.5)	124.1 (11.2)	111.3 (9.8)	126.0 (8.0)
Natural Science	225.3 (18.2)	217.2 (19.6)	231.6 (20.5)	313.1 (20.0)
Social Science	216.3 (17.4)	159.5 (14.4)	121.9 (10.8)	230.8 (14.7)
Humanities	15.1 (1.2)	15.6 (1.4)	17.1 (1.5)	29.9 (1.9)
Others	47.4 (3.8)	10.5 (0.9)	10.4 (0.9)	62.7 (4.0)

Source: "National Survey of Scientific and Technological Activities: Integrative Report," (DOST, 1995), p.

Table 2a. Estimates of National R&D expenditures by field of activity, 1989-1992 (at current prices, in million pesos).

Sector/Field of Scientific Activity	1989	1990	1991	1992
Total	1,638.9	1,654.7	1,968.6	2,940.5
Agric Sci	491.1 (30.0)	589.3 (35.6)	774.7 (39.3)	936.0 (31.8)
Eng & Tech	324.7 (19.8)	277.4 (16.8)	335.7 (17.0)	570.7 (19.4)
Med Sci	155.6 (9.5)	185.5 (11.2)	193.9 (9.8)	236.8 (8.0)
Natural Sci	298.4 (18.2)	324.7 (19.6)	403.5 (20.5)	588.5 (20.2)
Social Science	286.2 (17.5)	238.4 (14.4)	212.4 (10.8)	433.9 (14.8)
Humanities	20.0 (1.2)	23.3 (1.4)	29.8 (1.5)	56.2 (2.0)
Others	62.7 (3.8)	15.7 (0.9)	18.2 (0.9)	117.9 (4.0)

Source: "National Survey of Scientific and Technological Activities: Integrative Report", (DOST, 1995), p. A-5.

Table 3. Estimates of national R&D expenditures for social science by sector of performer, 1989-1992 (in 1985 prices, in million pesos).

Sector	1989	1990	1991	1992
Total	216.3	159.5	121.9	230.8
Higher Education	32.0 (15.0)	40.0 (25.0)	34.8 (29.0)	48.2 (21.0)
Government	123.3 (57.0)	48.5 (30.0)	60.5 (50.0)	153.9 (67.0)
Nongovernment	60.9 (28.0)	68.6 (43.0)	323.3 (19.0)	24.0 (10.0)
Private Industries	.017	2.3 (1.0)	3.2 (2.0)	4.6 (2.0)

Source: "National Survey of Scientific and Technological Activities: Integrative Report", (DOST, 1995).

Conclusion

It is clear from the above data that:

1. Government is a key investor in social science research and development.

2. Government recognizes and supports outstanding social scientists.

3. Government provides funds, albeit limited, for basic research in the social sciences. It also hires a sizeable number of social scientists in the public service.

4. Given all these findings, government's exclusion of the social sciences in the scientific career system for the public service is grossly inconsistent with its other activities directed at supporting social science as a field of scientific activity.

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Table 3a. Estimates of national R&D expenditures for social science by sector of performance, 1989-1991 (at current prices, in million pesos).

Sector	1989	1990	1991	1992
Total	286.2	238.4	212.4	433.9
Higher Education	42.4 (14.8)	59.8 (25.1)	60.7 (28.6)	90.7 (20.9)
Government	163.2 (57.0)	72.5 (30.4)	105.3 (49.6)	289.3 (66.7)
Nongovernment	80.6 (28.2)	102.5 (43.0)	40.6 (19.1)	45.1 (10.4)
Private Industries	.023	3.4 (1.4)	5.6 (2.6)	8.6 (2.0)

Source: "National Survey of Scientific and Technological Activities: Integrative Report", (DOST, 1995).

This situation has serious implications for Philippine social science. At the very least, the Philippine Social Science Council must seek an explanation for this glaring inconsistency in the government's science

policy. Moreover, it is urgent that the PSSC must work with the Scientific Career Council of the DOST to correct this glaring aberration in the government's scientific career structure.

Annex A

Rules and Regulations Implementing the Merit System for Scientific Career System*

Section 2. Declaration of Policy—The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation and their utilization, and to science and technology education, training and services and shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and national life.

It shall be the policy of the government to support and encourage the development of science and technology, to attract scientific experts into the public service, and to provide a system for the recognition and reward of technological and scientific productivity, efficiency, innovativeness and effectiveness of the job, sharing their dedication to the public service.

Section 3. Objectives—In establishing this Merit System for Scientific Career System, the merit and fitness principle in the recruitment, career progression

of advancement, recognition and rewards, and discipline of scientists shall be strictly observed to ensure fairness, justice and excellence in attaining scientific career service goals.

The System seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. to establish guidelines for entrance to and/or conferment of rank in the Scientific Career System;
2. to provide equal opportunities for career advancement of scientists;
3. to encourage the development of highly qualified and productive scientists in the public service;
4. to provide a system of rewards and recognition for outstanding career scientists to ensure their attraction and retention; and
5. to provide guide for expeditious and facilitative resolution of complaints and grievances of scientists.

*Source: The Scientific Career Council, Department of Science and Technology, Bldg. 1, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Section 4. Features of the Scientific Career System—The Scientific Career System is a system of recruitment, career progression, recognition and reward of scientists in the public service, as a means of developing a pool of highly qualified and productive scientific personnel.

The System shall be characterized by:

1. entrance and career progression or advancement based on qualifications, merit and scientific productivity;
2. career paths that shall allow scientists to develop within their respective areas of expertise without leaving their status as scientists; and
3. incentives and rewards to ensure attraction and retention of highly qualified manpower in the science and technology sector.

Section 5. Coverage—The Scientific Career System shall apply to scientific personnel with masteral and/or doctoral degree in the natural sciences, engineering and technology, medical sciences, agricultural sciences, and other related disciplines as may be determined by the Scientific Career Council.

Specifically, it shall cover the following disciplines:

1. Natural Sciences

- a. Astronomy
- b. Chemistry (including Biochemistry, Geo-Chemistry)
- c. Physics (including Geophysics, Biophysics)
- d. Mathematics
- e. Statistics
- f. Geology
- g. Oceanography and Marine Sciences
- h. Biology (including Molecular Biology)
- i. Biotechnology
- j. Meteorology
- k. Botany
- l. Zoology
- m. Microbiology
- n. Nutrition
- o. Computer Sciences
- p. Environmental Sciences (including Ecology)
- q. Volcanology

II. Engineering and Technology

- a. Agricultural Engineering
- b. Chemical Engineering (including Biochemical Engineering)
- c. Civil Engineering
- d. Electrical and Electronics Engineering (including Microelectronics, Instrumentation and Control)
- e. Geothermal Engineering
- f. Mechanical Engineering
- g. Aeronautical and Nautical Engineering
- h. Energy Engineering
- i. Mining Engineering
- j. Metallurgical Engineering
- k. Nuclear Engineering
- l. Food Engineering
- m. Textile Engineering
- n. Materials Engineering
- o. Environmental Engineering
- p. Computer Engineering
- q. Forest Products Engineering

III. Medical Sciences

A. Basic Science

1. Anatomy
2. Physiology
3. Medical Pathology
4. Medical Parasitology
5. Pharmacology
6. Medical Microbiology
7. Public Health
8. Epidemiology

B. Clinical Science

1. Medical (including pediatrics and specialties of Internal Medicine)
2. Surgical (including obstetrics, gynecology, ENT, ophthalmology)

C. Paramedical Sciences

1. Dentistry
2. Nursing
3. Pharmacy
4. Medical Technology

IV. Agricultural Sciences

- a. Agronomy
- b. Animal Science
- c. Fisheries and Aquaculture
- d. Forestry and Forest Products
- e. Veterinary Science
- f. Plant Breeding
- g. Plant Pathology
- h. Entomology
- i. Rural Science
- j. Food Sciences
- k. Soil Science

V. Others

- a. Library and Archival Sciences
- b. Scientific and Technical Documentation

Section 6. Definition of Terms—As used in this System, the following terms are defined as:

Conferment—Refers to the award of rank of Scientist after assessment of qualifications.

Career Advancement—Refers to the promotion to scientific rank which is usually accompanied by an increase in salary.

Research and Development (R&D)—Refers to the aggregate of basic and applied research and development with applied research directed towards practical application of knowledge and basic fundamental research directed primarily towards developing new or fuller scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject rather than the practical application. The term may also refer to creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge in science and technology.

Scientific Personnel—Refers to the public personnel who, being qualified in accordance with Civil Service law and rules, participate directly in S&T activities such as those occupying scientific research specialist positions and other comparable positions in an institution or unit.

Scientist—Refers to an individual who has earned a masteral or doctoral degree in any field of science and technology in an accredited college or university and has demonstrated capability and

earned distinction in independent research in the basic, applied or engineering sciences, manifested by outstanding or innovative work in the scientific and/or technological community or as published in creditable or recognized scientific or technical journal, or acknowledged by his/her peers in the business or industry.

Merit System—Refers to a personnel system in which the comparative competence, qualifications, moral integrity, and achievement govern the selection, utilization, training, retention and discipline of personnel in an organization.

Section 7. Organization and Functions—The organization and functions of the System are as follows:

1. Organization

1.1 Civil Service Commission hereinafter referred to as CSC is responsible for administering the System and has final authority to decide on all matters pertaining to the System.

1.2 A Scientific Career Council hereinafter referred to as SCC shall be established jointly by the CSC and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to evaluate candidates for appointment to the Scientific Career System.

1.3 The Scientific Career Council shall be composed of the following:

CSC Chairman - Ex-Officio Chairman
DOST Secretary - Ex-Officio Co-Chairman
President of the Philippine National Science Society - Ex-Officio Member
President of the National Academy of Science and Technology - Ex-Officio Member
President of the University of the Philippines System - Ex-Officio Member

1.4 The SCC shall establish special technical committees in the fields of natural sciences, engineering and technology, medical sciences, and agricultural sciences to assist the SCC in performing its tasks and to be appointed by the Scientific Career Council.

The Technical Committees (TCs) may, subject to the approval of the SCC, create sub-committees for

very specialized fields as the need arises. The TCs may request the assistance of consultants and other resource persons.

1.5 Each of the technical committees shall be composed of at least five (5) members who are recognized authorities in their respective fields and who shall serve for a term of two (2) years unless the Council shall, for justifiable reason shorten the term. At least two (2) members shall be regular members of the National Academy of Science and Technology, and at least three (3) regular members of the Philippine National Science Society (formerly the National Research Council of the Philippines).

1.6 The SCC shall have a Secretariat based at the DOST and headed by an Executive Secretary to be appointed by the Council and assisted by a staff from the DOST and CSC, to be appointed by their respective agencies.

2. Evaluation Committee in the Agency

2.1 A separate Scientific Career Evaluation Committee (SCEC) shall be established in each agency which has an organic unit engaged in R&D in science and technology or has personnel substantially involved in R&D. The members of the SCEC shall be appointed by their respective Department/Agency head.

2.2 It shall evaluate the qualifications of the candidates to SCS, based on the guidelines of the SCS and recommend conferment of rank to SCC.

2.3 The members of the Committee shall possess the appropriate expertise preferably with a Ph.D. and a minimum M.S. degree. In the absence of a member possessing these qualifications the SCC may be requested to designate the member of the Committee.

Section 8. Recruitment and Appointment—Entrance to the Scientific Career System is open to scientific personnel with a masteral or a doctoral degree in the appropriate fields of science and other related disciplines.

2. Policies

1.1 Recruitment shall be open to those who have obtained a masteral or a doctoral degree in any field of science enumerated in Section 5.

1.2 No person shall be considered for appointment unless he has been granted a civil service eligibility under Republic Act No. 1080, as amended, Presidential Decree No. 907 or PD 997.

1.3 A permanent appointment shall be issued to a person who meets the qualification standards established for the Scientific rank.

1.4 The SCC shall appoint scientific personnel from Rank I to III, subject to approval by the CSC. It shall recommend to the President of the Republic of the Philippines appointment to rank IV and V.

1.5 All those appointed to the System shall constitute a pool of scientists who may be assigned to scientific projects within the DOST, other agency, or other assignments on an inter-agency basis. However, upon completion of the project, the scientist shall return to his post in the DOST or his respective agency.

1.6 In line with the policy of providing scientific personnel with broad experience in leadership and research management which directly affect their effectiveness in R&D work and their professional advancement, or whenever demanded by the exigencies of the service as determined by the SCC, those appointed in the System may be temporarily designated to positions in the Career Executive Service in which case, they shall continue to receive the compensation and/or allowances pertaining to their scientific rank or temporary position whichever are higher.

2. Procedures

2.1 Entry of those who are already in the government service shall be done through application with the agency head who shall endorse it to the Scientific Career Council.

3. Rules and Regulations

3.1 The Scientific Career Council shall adopt appropriate rules and regulations for the evaluation of the qualifications of applicants to the rank of Scientists.

4. Ranks in the System

Appointment in the System shall be based on rank—from Scientist I to Scientist V. Scientific personnel shall be admitted into the system to the extent that they meet the minimum qualifications as follows:

Scientist I—Completion of masteral degree in the appropriate fields of science and ten (10) years of productive scholarship and professional research and development (R&D) work beyond the masteral degree, or a doctoral degree, and five (5) years of productive scholarship and professional R&D work beyond the doctoral degree.

Must garner at least 50 points in scientific productivity (productive scholarship and professional R&D work) in terms of:

- a. pioneering application of scientific findings, technologies, discoveries, inventions, major research papers, book articles, etc. (maximum 70 points).
- b. training of S&T personnel (max. 15 points).
- c. professional standing (max. 15 points).

Scientist II—Completion of a masteral degree in the appropriate fields of science and thirteen (13) years of productive scholarship and progressive R&D work beyond the masteral degree, or a doctoral degree and eight (8) years of productive scholarship and professional R&D work beyond the doctoral degree.

Must garner at least 60 points in scientific productivity (as previously described).

Scientist III—Completion of masteral degree in the appropriate fields of science and sixteen (16) years of productive scholarship and professional R&D work beyond the masteral degree, or a doctoral degree and eleven (11) years of productive

scholarship and professional R&D work beyond the doctoral degree.

Must garner at least 70 points in scientific productivity as defined in Section 9 (2) in addition to recognition in the form of any or all:

- a. citation of work in scientific articles/reviews/textbooks or utilization of inventions;
- b. awards in contests of high caliber;
- c. professional standing—shall refer to the level of acceptance and recognition in the scientific community in terms of profession, moral and ethical integrity;
- d. appointment to prestigious scientific bodies, national/international;
- e. participation as speaker in scientific lectures, symposia in regional or international meetings.

Scientist IV—Completion of a masteral degree in the appropriate fields of science and nineteen (19) years of productive scholarship and professional R&D work beyond the masteral degree, or fourteen (14) years of productive scholarship and professional R&D work beyond the doctoral degree.

Must garner at least 80 points in scientific productivity plus recognition, as described above and as acknowledged by appropriate national scientific body such as NAST or international bodies.

Scientist V—Completion of doctoral degree in the appropriate fields of science and seventeen (17) years of productive scholarship and professional R&D work, including the use of research results for commercial and industrial purposes.

Must garner at least 90 points in scientific productivity plus recognition, as described above and as acknowledged by appropriate national scientific body such as NAST or international bodies.

Under very exceptional circumstances, the Council may confer the rank to any individual with outstanding S&T achievement such as Nobel Prize Award.

Section 9. Criteria for Appointment—The following shall be the criteria for appointment to scientific ranks:

1. Education—shall refer to advanced academic degree of at least masteral level from a college or university of recognized standing either locally or abroad.

2. Scientific Productivity—shall refer to significant outputs and contributions in the fields defined in Section 5 of these rules and regulations. This shall include:

2.1 Scientific articles in publications with an editorial board of international circulation, and other work of similar nature.

2.2 Discoveries, inventions, and other significant original contributions.

2.3 Practical application of research findings, discoveries, inventions in commerce, in public policy and in government.

2.4 Book, monographs, compendiums and major bodies of published work.

2.5 Training of young scientists.

2.6 Professional standing shall refer to the level of acceptance and recognition in the scientific community in terms of professional, moral and ethical integrity.

In addition to the foregoing, no person shall be considered for appointment to the System unless he has been granted eligibility under PD 997 or PD 507 or Republic Act No. 1080, as amended.

Section 10. Performance Evaluation System—The guidelines for the personnel evaluation system, career advancement, training and career development shall be developed and promulgated by the SCC in consultation with the CSC and the Scientific Community.

Section 11. Promotion—The promotion of scientists shall be based on the completion of appropriate education, necessary experiences as defined in Section 8, No. 4 and on scientific productivity as provided in Section 9, No. 2 of the herein Rules and Regulations governing the Merit System.

Section 12. Training and Career Development—Training and career development are important aspects of the Scientific Career System. To carry out this major responsibility, the following policies are hereby adopted:

1. Policies

1.1 The Civil Service Commission and the Department of Science and Technology, in consultation with agencies, shall develop and administer a continuing Human Resource Development Program for all scientific personnel and scientists in the government service.

1.2 Selection of participants to training programs shall be based on actual needs for specialization and enhancement of competence taking into consideration national and organizational priorities for S&T development.

1.3 The Scientific Career Council shall encourage scientific personnel or scientists to pursue relevant local/foreign-assisted training/scholarships, seminars, conferences, workshops and/or other related human resources development courses.

Section 13. Recognition and Rewards—To encourage creativity, innovation, scientific productivity, scholarship, efficiency and integrity among scientific personnel and scientists, the Scientific Career Council shall establish and strengthen a system of rewards and recognition for outstanding performance or achievement in the fields covered by the Scientific Career System in accordance with rules, regulations, and standards promulgated by the Civil Service Commission. For this purpose, the following policies are adopted:

1. Policies

1.1 The Scientific Career Council shall encourage and improve scientific productivity and efficiency among scientific personnel and scientists through appropriate recognition and rewards of ideas and/or accomplishments.

1.2 Any scientific discovery, finding or breakthrough that meets the criteria for awards shall be entitled to a corresponding award but only once for each kind.

1.3 Recipients of awards shall be given preference in promotion or career advancement and training grants/scholarships.

3. Procedures

2.1 Guided by established policies, the Scientific Career Council may create any form, kind, or category of awards for each accomplishment or scientific discovery, findings or breakthrough.

2.2 The SCC may adopt such procedures as may be necessary to implement effectively its recognition and awards program.

Section 14. Personnel Relations and Welfare Services—It shall be the concern of the Scientific Career Council to take all proper steps toward the creation of an atmosphere conducive to good supervisor-employee relations and the improvement of morale.

Towards this end, the Council shall, among others:

1. Inform the scientific personnel and scientists of their rights and privileges as well as the rules governing their obligations and conduct.

2. Facilitate the dissemination of information and the discussion of ideas among the scientific personnel and scientists and encourage their participation in the development of policies, procedures, and other matters affecting them and their work.

3. Encourage voluntary activities, whether athletic, social, recreational or financial, that are conducive to well-being and consistent with the objectives of personnel welfare.

4. Arrange annual medical and dental services and take proper action on the recommendations resulting from such services.

Section 15. Compensation—The rate of compensation, fringe benefits and allowances in the Scientific Career System shall be in accordance with existing laws. The agency concerned shall shoulder the salary, allowance and fringe benefits of the Scientist.

Section 16. Discipline—No member of the Scientific Career System shall be suspended or dismissed except for cause as provided by law and after due process.

The provisions of the Civil Service Law and Rules on Administrative Discipline shall apply in proceeding against members of the Scientific Career System.

Section 17. Rule Making Powers—The Scientific Career Council is hereby empowered to formulate and adopt its own rules and procedures to effectively implement the System, subject to established policies.

Section 18. Transitory Provisions—Except as otherwise provided in this Merit System, rights vested or acquired under established systems prior to the effectivity of this System shall be respected.

Section 19. Amendment—Any amendment to the provisions of this System shall be approved by the SCC and shall be reviewed by the Civil Service Commission.

Section 20. Effectivity—This Merit System shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Done in Taguig, Metro Manila, this 25th day of June 1990.

The Scientific Career Council:

(Sgd.) Patricia A. Sto. Tomas
Ex-Officio Chairman

(Sgd.) Ceferino L. Follusco
Ex-Officio Co-Chairman

(Sgd.) Dioscoro L. Umali
Ex-Officio Member

(Sgd.) Melecio S. Magno
Ex-Officio Member

(Sgd.) Jose V. Abueva
Ex-Officio Member

Attested by: (Sgd.) Lydia G. Tansinsin
Executive Secretary

Towards Science and Technology Cooperation in the Asian Region*

Lydia G. Tansinsin

Asia in the World In the 21st Century

As we move towards the 21st century, fostering science and technology advancement in the Asian region is essential to keep abreast with recent global economic development alongside with social and political developments. Science and technology (S&T) are critical elements in attaining economic growth as can be gleaned from the experiences of the new economic tigers in Asia. Science and technology development is the foundation on which both world peace and quality way of life among peoples can be established when integrated into cultural, social, and economic development.

With the emergence of the New World Trade Organization (WTO) and the strengthening of the European Union (EU) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Asian region is facing a greater challenge. There is a need to closely work and cooperate with one another to remain competitive with the other regions of the world. Science and technology will play a key role in addressing this challenge and one way of undertaking this is through strengthening and accelerating S&T cooperation among the Asian countries. It will also mean strengthening linkage with countries in other parts of the world specifically around the Pacific basin. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is now becoming a venue for economic and technological exchanges. And it is still bent on continuing and facilitating the flow of investment and trade, as well as strengthening consultation in the field of macro economic policies, enhancing the quality of eco-

nomic infrastructure, human resource development, and the acquisition and development of appropriate technology.

The eyes of the world are now being focused in Asia. Being the largest continent in the world, Asia is envisioned as the next economic dragon. However, this will entail great efforts, unity and cooperation among countries in the Asian region. A common goal of attaining this vision will certainly lead into a unified Asian region sans political and economic conflicts.

Sustainable Development

The importance of science and technology as means of achieving socioeconomic goals and improving the quality of life of the common people has always been emphasized in regional and international fora. But it is not enough to speak of the role of science and technology in a general sense. Science and technology is not science and technology per se. It is about people, how they are able to use the tools of science and technology in pursuing their social goals and how these social goals could be translated into economic growth and development. It is about the natural resources, how the people optimally utilize them in achieving technological development without depriving the future generation of its use. It is about the use of both human and natural resources for sustainable development.

Sustainable development as defined by the 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development "is essentially a process of change in

*Paper presented at the Second Asian Conference of Scientific Cooperation, Tokyo, Japan, February 6-9, 1995.

which exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both the current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations. It is a development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs.*

There is, therefore, the need to face the challenge of satisfying the demand for basic commodities of an increasing population and at the same time maintaining the integrity of the environment. And we, as scientists have our roles to assume and responsibilities to fulfill in this regard. Researches which are environment-friendly and have potential economic and social value should be pursued more than our quest for intellectual satisfaction. Not only the scientist, but all of us as stewards of this earth, are bound to see to it that we find the appropriate balance between developing and utilizing the resources for our basic needs.

In the Philippines, the Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development (PSSD) was adopted by the government. This is a conceptual framework emphasizing the need to protect the country's environment and natural resources and sets the strategies for achieving economic growth while adequately protecting biological resources and diversity, vital ecosystem functions and overall environmental quality. PSSD became one of the basis in developing our Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan for 1993-1998.

To be sustainable, it is not only the environment and natural resources that ought to be given attention, but also manpower development. Human resource base must be viewed as a "process" that must be sustained in the same way that "development" must be sustainable. There must be continuous development of skilled workers in science and technology through formal and non-formal education. Continuous research programs, manned by a lineup of well trained scientific manpower could sustain the technological developments gained in the long-term. Hence, education focusing on science and engineering must be enhanced in all levels.

Cognizant of the importance of human resources development, the Department of Science and

Technology (DOST) has programs that cater to the development of scientific and technological infrastructure including manpower development and S&T culture, namely, the Engineering and Science Education Program and the Science and Technology Education Plan.

Fusion of Cultural, Social and Natural Sciences

Social science should be integrated with the natural sciences to enable the community to readily accept the new technologies that are being introduced by natural scientists and technologists. Earlier, both sectors work out things independently, thus creating misunderstanding to the point of animosity. But to enable to discover and impart the "social value" of science and technology, both sectors should approach a problem together. The social scientists must set the tone by studying the cultural and social conditions and environment to avoid conflict of interests. On the other hand, the technologists will be responsible for undertaking research and development on subject areas that may affect a community or the whole country.

In our country, this is now gradually being recognized. The Philippine program on scientific career system confers a scientist rank for both the natural and social scientists unlike before when the natural scientists were given priority over the social scientists. Likewise, a certain percentage of the government R&D funding is now being allocated to social science research.

Technology Transfer

As earlier mentioned, science and technology is essential in attaining industrial development. Governments are encouraging the development of technologies to address the need to be globally competitive and be at par with the developed countries. However, one critical factor that should be emphasized aside from technology generation is technology transfer and commercialization. One can only realize industrialization and economic development if technologies developed are properly utilized.

One of the strategies being pursued by the Philippines to attain its vision of entering the industrial status the new century is the modernization of the production sectors through massive technology

transfer from local and foreign sources. It hopes to equip the people in the countryside with suitable or appropriate technologies to fully utilize indigenous resources and at the same time, improve the quality of life of the people. This is underscored in the Science and Technology Agenda for National Development (STAND) developed by the Department of Science and Technology in support of the President's goal of Philippines 2000.

STAND follows a demand-oriented approach. The country's activities must be geared toward the demand coming from production sectors, government, and the Filipino people. On the other hand, the supply side must be equipped with manpower and institutional capabilities to produce S&T outputs such as knowledge, process, product, and equipment. Linkages between the two sides must be strengthened. A major program on the demand is the Comprehensive Technology Transfer and Commercialization (CTTC) Program. It involves the transfer of locally developed or adapted machines, processes and other technology inputs to the production sectors to help create more jobs and increase income. S&T Parks have also been established in various state universities to develop knowledge-based industries through a closer interaction between industry and centers of excellence in academe and government. DOST is, likewise, intensifying international networking and cooperation through bilateral and multilateral collaborations and exchanges. In line with the linkages to bring S&T outputs to the users, a special technology financing program is being implemented through government financial institutions. Other linkages consist of activities such as technology fairs, investors' fora, technology packages, technology training seminars, and technology investment clinics.

Existing Science Organizations in Asia

Cognizant of the significance of pooling together the economic and human resources to bring about faster scientific and economic developments, countries in Asia have been actively participating in international organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Association for Science Cooperation in Asia (ASCA), and the recently formed Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS). The Philippines is

proud to be an active member of these reputable associations.

There are reasons for being involved in such organizations. First, that interdependence is essential in advancing mutual interests and addressing common problems, e.g., scientific, economic, political and environmental. Second, these organizations provide the venue for interaction and exchange among people in the scientific community. Third, these could be avenues for bridging the gap between more advanced countries and the least developed ones, that is, promoting equity among nations. And lastly, these are means of generating resources and exporting technologies within and among nations.

The activities of these organizations contribute a lot to the progress in research and technology development and in attaining peace in the Asian region.

The Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

In ASEAN, for instance, there is the Committee on Science and Technology (COST) currently being chaired by the Philippines. COST is actively pursuing regional scientific activities and programs for almost 15 years since its formation in 1970. With its aims of generating S&T expertise and manpower in the region; accelerating technology transfer among its members and from more developed countries to the region; and, providing assistance and support in the application of research and effective use of natural resources, it has so far accomplished a lot in uplifting the status of S&T in the region.

It is now focusing its efforts towards enhancing public and private sector collaboration; strengthening the network for infrastructure and programs for human resource development; improving industry processes, standards and sustainability; achieving self-sustainability especially in the conduct of its S&T activities; and, expanding S&T cooperation with the international community.

Association for Science Cooperation in Asia (ASCA)

ASCA is a ministerial-level forum participated in by around 22 Asian economies. Like ASEAN COST, it aims to promote and intensify scientific and

technological cooperation among its members; to effectively utilize resources and facilities for research and development; and, achieve for its people a high level of social and economic progress. Its activities are directed towards the promotion and acceleration of national efforts devoted to continually improve agricultural productivity and industrial innovation, to the development of scientific and technical manpower, and to the solution of problems of the human environment.

The 13th ASCA Ministerial Meeting held in Manila in November 1994 saw the strong commitment given by member economies to a continuing cooperation in S&T in the region. They agreed to strengthen the linkage between members to pursue its thrusts on human resource development, sustainable development, research and development, and exchange of information. Likewise, the organization agreed to maintain liaison with other regional and international organizations, as well as with institutions, both public and private.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

In recognition of the need for an inter-governmental policy consultative mechanism and to encourage closer links and cooperation among economies in the Asia-Pacific rim, APEC was formed. It is now emerging as one of the world's most significant regional fora. In view of the developments taking place in the region, and since the economies within are considered to be the "locomotive or engine of the world trade", the year 2000 is touted to be the "Pacific Century". APEC offers great potential for economic, scientific and technical cooperation regionwide and/or on sectoral levels. Its objectives include sustaining growth and development of the region; encouraging flow of goods, services, capital and technology; strengthening the open multilateral trading system; and reducing barriers to trade in goods, services and investment among the economies.

Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS)

COMSATS was established during the First Meeting of the Joint Commission on S&T for Sustainable Development in the South in October 1994 in Pakistan, whereby fifteen Ministers of Science and Technology and thirty Heads of Science Academies

and Research Councils from the South signed the Agreement for its establishment. This came about to highlight the necessity of joint political commitment by Heads of State in the South to place S&T at the top level of their development agenda and to support major initiatives of common concern aimed at building and sustaining indigenous capabilities in S&T and their application to socioeconomic development.

Setting Up an Organization for the Asian Conference on Scientific Cooperation (ACSC)

The proliferation of international science organizations in the world confirms the recognition of nations and governments of the value of promoting strategic alliances and international linkages through science and technology in response to the world's dynamic economic and political environment. They believe that science and technology have been among the major driving forces causing these global social and economic changes.

Given these organizations, is there a need for the countries in the Asian region to develop a new venue for consultation and sharing of scientific knowledge and expertise? What could be the key role of the Asian Conference on Scientific Cooperation (ACSC) should it be established as a formal organization? Could it draw the interest away from countries already involved in other groups? What directions should it take to make it relevant to the current global scenario? How will it make Asia confirm its position as the emerging dragon among continents in the world? And what could be the unique features of ACSC to make it different from the existing organizations?

These are some of the issues that need to be addressed in deciding whether a formal organization should be set up for the ACSC.

Philippine Position

Considering that the objectives of the organizations which have been mentioned are all geared towards the betterment of the quality of life among the people in the region through science and technology, it seems that it may not be appropriate to form another group for this purpose. However, the concept of an association composed of scientific and technological organizations from the private sector may be worth looking into.

Most of the associations and aggrupations cited earlier are composed of government-led organizations. In the case the ACSC being envisioned, it is privately-led. Precisely, we have to involve the private sector which we sometimes call the non-government organizations (NGO).

Most of the S&T activities are initiated by the government. It is high time that the private sector take the lead with assistance and complementation from the government sector. This would make the

private sector more responsible for research and development. In the Philippines, R&D is being handled by the government and hardly undertaken in private companies.

Hence, effective utilization of human, natural and economic resources could be directed by both the government and private sectors. Here, the friendly competition will surface. This could be a good start to have new ideas that could be useful in future undertakings.

JOB OPENING

The Zamboanga Medical School Foundation, Inc. in consortium with the Ateneo de Zamboanga is looking for a SOCIAL SCIENTIST for a full time position at the Medical School.

QUALIFICATIONS: At least a Bachelor's degree in any of the social sciences but a higher degree is preferred (Masters or Ph.D.). The applicant should have a strong background in research, teaching experience, and an interest and experience in such issues as gender, domestic violence, sexuality, the psychological and social determinants of health (politics, economics, environment, etc.). He/she should be comfortable in working in a multi-disciplinary group.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Qualified applicant shall serve as a key member of a faculty group involved in a project of integrating the social sciences into the medical curriculum. The project is funded by the Ford Foundation. He/she will help the medical faculty identify needs and ensure that social issues and approaches are fully integrated. There is much room for creative innovation in a project that will hopefully have a profound impact on medical education throughout the Philippines.

TIME FRAME: The position is now open and needs to be filled as soon as possible. The contract will run for at least 1 1/2 years with a possibility of further extension.

PAY: P8,000.00 per month with expense account for travel and other official responsibilities.

CONTACT: Dr. Fortunato L. Cristobal
Zamboanga Medical School Foundation
La Purisima Street, Zamboanga City
Tel. No.: 993-1699
FAX: (63) (62) 991-0870

Social Technology Development for the 21st Century

Cesar M. Mercado

This concept paper presents a response to the most challenging question that social scientists from Third World Countries are invariably asked: What would be the most significant contribution of the social science community to development at the turn of the century?

It is not easy to answer this thought provoking question considering the varied persuasions of the social scientists that constitute the social science community. One practical approach to arrive at a logical answer would be to ask social research data users, such as practicing development managers, planners, officers, and fieldworkers from Third World countries about the most serious problems confronting them in development.

Some practitioners from Asia, the Pacific and Africa believe that the widening gap between technology generation and technology utilization (TGU-Gap) is one of the most pervasive problems facing development programs in their countries. A host of factors which have been identified in the past as constraints to development are also impinging on the TGU-Gap. These factors include inadequate infrastructures, farm inputs and market outlets for extra farm produce; unrealistic policies; and inefficient and ineffective agencies and organizations tasked to deliver the increasing technologies and services to the grassroots.

If there is something new in the development arena, it is the significant shift of the bottleneck from an inadequate infrastructure to an inefficient and ineffective delivery system. The system, which is composed of government agencies (GAs), non-government organizations (NGOs), and local governments (LGs), is facing increasing difficulty to meet the demands of the people. It suffers from antiquated management styles and incoherent approaches,

methods and techniques in delivering and promoting new technologies and services in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and other development sectors to the grassroots.

Apparently the most serious problem facing development in many Third World countries is no longer physical or technical but social. The most prominent bottleneck in the technology gap is no longer the lack of hard technologies but the shortage of culture-friendly social technologies that could help deliver and promote the good of the ultimate customers. Hence, the answer to the question raised by development practitioners is this: One of the most promising contributions of the social science community to development at the turn of the century would logically be the development of appropriate social technologies. These "soft technologies" should help policy makers, development managers, planners and implementors, local government executives, and community-based leaders improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the system that delivers the hard technologies and services to the grassroots.

Social Technologies

Social technologies are tested and documented social research data-based models, theories, concepts, frameworks, strategies, approaches, methods, tools and materials which were developed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of agencies and organizations in carrying out their mandate and functions. The social technologies that could help the various GAs, NGOs and LGs deliver more efficiently and effectively the relevant hard technologies and services to the ultimate users need priority attention.

Specifically, the priority social technologies are those that deal with institutional organization and

management, program and project management and implementation, community organization, management and mobilization, policy making, planning, monitoring and evaluation, people empowerment, and participation.

Actually, the systematic development of social technologies has been going on in industrialized countries for decade. These social technologies were developed to improve the quantity and lately the quality of products. This tradition has led to the organization of research and development units (RDUs) in industries. Today, private firms maintain their lead over their competitors through constant use of improved social technologies. Some of the most popular social technologies used in industrialized countries are on business management such as management by objective, Japanese management, theory Z, strategic planning or corporate planning, delegation of authority, and decentralization.

Developing countries have sporadically developed social technologies. These include development communication, social marketing, communication management model, communication campaign planning model, and traveling experiments (a new research methodology which is a compromise between laboratory and field experiment). Some of these social technologies have shown their usefulness in promoting hard technologies in health, population, agriculture and other sectors.

Purnells Concise Dictionary of Science defines technology as the "practical application of sciences." Science, according to the same dictionary, "is the broad field of human knowledge acquired by systematic observation and experiment, and explained by means of rules, laws, principles, theories, and hypothesis." The same dictionary explains that there are three broad categories of science, namely: 1) physical sciences (e.g., physics, chemistry, geology); 2) biological sciences (e.g., botany, zoology, biochemistry); and 3) social sciences (e.g., sociology, anthropology, economics).

In Third World countries, the physical and biological sciences continue to generate research data and "hard technologies" at a much rapidly increasing rate. In contrast, the social sciences remain so engrossed in social research data generation with very sporadic output in social technology development. The significant imbalance between physical

and biological technologies on the one hand, and social technologies on the other, contributes considerably to the TUG-Gap.

There could be several reasons for the slow shift of social scientists in developing countries from social research data to social technology development. The most probable reasons are:

1. *belief in the narrow view that research is an end by itself.* This belief is formed in the academe, particularly in thesis writing courses. After manuscripts are accepted, the research findings are shelved. Attempts to develop social technologies out of existing data are not deliberately encouraged.

2. *lack of awareness of the practical uses of the social research data in developing social technologies.* This is closely related to the first point. Actually, social research data are useful for planning programs or projects, training programs, communication materials and education materials. The data are also used as basis for comparison in determining the effects and impacts of projects. But the same data, if properly pieced together, could be developed into more useful social technologies.

3. *publish or perish orientation.* This orientation influences the choice of research problems, the language of the article and the goal of the scientist. Research problems perceived by the scientist to be highly publishable in international journals are studied even if these have no apparent use to the intended users. The more articles published, the better it is for the promotion of the researcher, but not necessarily to the benefit of the user.

4. *lack of an integrative concept.* Social scientists in Third World countries have yet to agree on a generic concept that would describe their practical products together.

Renown social scientists have used different terms to describe their outputs such as "social invention" (Myrdal, 1968), management and organizational change methods (Fuczynski, 1987). Helmer (1966) is probably the first to write a book on social technology 30 years ago. The book was an impressive discourse on the value of the concept in development. But it came too early (in 1966) for social scientists to accept. Thus until today, social technology is still virtually an unknown concept to the social science community. Due largely to the lack of an accepted unifying concept, the few social technologies generated by the social sciences in developing countries

were not documented and have consequently been forever lost.

In Asia, we have developed and launched innovative, informational, educational, and motivational campaigns in selected development sectors such as in health, population, rice production, and nutrition. But due to lack of understanding that these were part of social technologies, these rich experiences were not documented to provide guidance to new related campaigns. Thus, for almost every new project, we often start from step zero instead of step ten.

While data banks on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and other development sectors are sprouting in Third World countries, no data bank on the broad area of social technologies has yet been organized. UNESCO has data banks on social sciences, but social technologies are not explicitly included. The need, therefore for a Social Technology Development Program is imperative.

The Social Technology Development Program (STDP)

The development of social technologies requires much preparation and adjustments. Social scientists who wish to go into this new frontier in the social sciences would need new orientation, new knowledge, new attitude, and new skills.

The social scientists who are excited by discoveries will have to appreciate social inventions. Those who enjoy to tear apart others' ideas will have to shift toward piecing together related ideas into practical models that will guide decisions and actions. Those who refuse to give concrete recommendations will have to go further into testing their own recommendations. Going into social technology development in Third World countries requires a massive, high-level human resource development program. It will need considerable resources, expertise, institutional support and political will to carry out such program on a massive scale.

An STDP is essential to initiate this pioneering initiative. The program should start small, considering the limited experience available in implementing it in developing countries. It should be started in Asia, which is now the most economically dynamic region in the world. This dynamism will bring with it tre-

mendous amount of hard technologies which are expected to spawn more social dislocation and tension in the region. To cushion their impact on interpersonal and inter-country relations, appropriate social technologies are urgently needed.

The "hard technology" (generated by physical and biological sciences) and the "soft technology" (generated by the social sciences) have a symbiotic relationship. The absence of one weakens the other. The "hard technology" provides the *method*. Thus, in training, the best trainer is one who knows the content and uses the best method in presenting it.

Framework

The sustainable development of social technologies depends upon a number of elements gathered from experiences of earlier related projects. The "success" elements, assuming that the funds are made available, are the following:

1. adequate indigenous social science research data that could provide the substance for developing the social technologies;
2. organizational network of social technology sources, producers, channels and users;
3. institutional network of social science centers that will house the coordinating staff at each level;
4. coordinating staff that will prepare the plan, coordinate the activities and monitor and evaluate the program at each level;
5. unified plan formulated by the different organizational network members;
6. functional monitoring and evaluation system for the whole network; and
7. institutional agreements and policies that will bind the network member organizations and institutions to ensure the sustainability of the program activities beyond the program cycle.

Adequate Indigenous Data-base

Social science research data are essential to start an STDP at the national and regional levels. Indigenous empirical data are the foundation of social technologies truly responsive to the culture of the users. Externally generated data are useful for comparing concepts but could be misleading for predicting practice. For example, both the Filipinos and the

Americans believe in offering something to their deceased relatives during All Saints Day. The classical offering of the Americans is flower; but the traditional offering of the Filipinos is food. Of all the technologies produced by the various sciences, the social technologies are the most culture-sensitive. Thus, the need to use indigenous data in developing responsive social technologies.

Organization Network

An organizational network of social technology sources, producers, channels and users is essential to the success of a network program. The most common model of information network is composed of one (source), at the most two (sources and users) elements. It is interdisciplinary, library-based and research institution-based. The data are abstracted and computerized. The data-base is found in a library. The users, who are not members of the network, are expected to come to the library. This model may work in industrialized countries, but it does not work yet in most Third World countries.

Evaluations of this library-based information network suggest that the existing model needs to be modified. The research data should not only be abstracted, but also pieced together into social technologies to guide decision and action. The network should include all the elements in an effective communication model. It should not only have sources but also producers, channels and users. In other words, the network should have all the elements to be self-sustaining.

Institutional Network

While the organization network is composed of organized people, the institutional network should be composed of national social research institutions. Each participating country should have one national institutional base which will be known as the national Social Technology Development Center (STDC) and a network of local social science institutions which will be known as the local STDC. The national STDC will become the focal point of the provincial and other local institutions that will participate in the program.

Some of the criteria to consider in selecting the STDC are:

1. willingness of the top management to officially participate in the program;
2. official commitment of top management to institutionalize the relevant activities after the end of the program;
3. availability of adequate indigenous social science database;
4. availability of willing and qualified social scientists;
5. experience in social technology development;
6. membership in social science and related information network; and
7. willingness to establish linkages with organized sources, producers, channels, and users of social technologies.

Coordinating Staff

As mentioned earlier, a National Coordinating Staff (NCS) will have to be organized in each participating country to oversee the total STDC. The secretariat will be headed by a National Program Coordinator (NPC), who will be assisted by a Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Group (RMEG), a Training and Network Development Group (TNDG), and an Administrative and Financial Support Group (AFSG). In the Philippines, the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) can act as the secretariat. Each local social technology unit in each participating country will also have its own coordinating staff to assist in meeting the needs of the network members.

The Development Consultants for Asia and the Pacific (DCAP), an offshoot of the former UNDP Asia and Pacific Program for Development Training and Communication Planning (DC), a regional field unit of UNDP, can act as secretariat at the regional level. DCAP is a Manila-based regional, non-stock and non-profit training, research and consultancy firm manned by former UN experts and consultants that are experienced in social research data generation and utilization in training, development of materials, and campaign planning and implementation. DCAP will organize a core staff that will oversee the whole program and provide technical assistance to national secretariats.

Unified Network Plan

A unified network plan is essential to the successful implementation of the program. Although the planning process is the primary responsibility of the NCS, participation of the source, producer, channel, and user groups is highly encouraged.

The plan should always be guided by the agreed upon objectives, outputs, activities and inputs found in the original or revised plan to ensure the smooth implementation of the project.

The plan should also consider the results of the monitoring and evaluation data and the environmental analysis conducted during the previous year.

Program Activities and Outputs

The program will initiate and, at the end, institutionalize the development, production, dissemination and utilization of social technologies. The specific activities that the program will carry out will include the following:

1. organization of the STDC's core staff in participating Asian countries;
2. selection, organization, staffing, and equipping the network of STDCs;
3. training selected network members on the development, production, dissemination and utilization of social technologies;
4. development, production, dissemination and utilization of the technologies;
5. monitoring and evaluation of the STDC activities;
6. expansion of the STDC's database to include social technologies; and
7. institutionalization of these activities in the participating agencies.

The output or tangible results expected to come out of the project would include the following:

1. strengthened organization and institution members of the social technology network (STN) and the STDCs;
2. trained staff and members of the network and the centers on social technology generation, production, dissemination, promotion and utilization;
3. equipped social laboratories and data bank on social technologies;

4. training program, exercises and outputs;
5. collection of social technologies which were developed, disseminated and utilized;
6. report on monitoring and evaluation studies; and
7. memoranda of agreements/understanding with network member organizations and center member institutions.

The collection of social technologies would include documented, tested and refined social concepts, theories, models, systems, social structures, strategies, approaches, methods, techniques and tools in organizing, managing, mobilizing, monitoring and evaluating agencies, organizations, institutions, groups and families involved in the social sectors.

Documented experiences in extension, development communication, participatory training and planning, social marketing, campaign management and implementation, decentralization, devolution and other social concepts will also be part of the social technology collection.

The documented social technologies will be in the form of books, manuals, tapes, slides, films, handbooks, and booklets, etc., which would emphasize on the processes or instructions on "how-to-do-it."

Organizational Structure and Delivery Mechanism

This program will harness the expertise of existing national networks of social science organizations in Asia such as the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) which is composed of social science organizations in Anthropology, Communication, Demography, Economics, Geography, History, Linguistics, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Social Work, Sociology, and Statistics. The program will also invite media producers and printers associations, policy makers associations, and coalitions of government and nongovernment organizations to complete the self-sustaining network of sources, producers, channels and users.

The mechanism for the development, production, dissemination and utilization of the social technologies would include:

1. regional and national workshops and study tours;

2. exchange programs and internships;
3. multi-media packages and programmed instructions; and
4. regional and national conferences and seminars.

The organization, training and institutionalization of core trainers of social technology development at the country level is essential to the sustainability of the activities after the program has ended.

Institutional Framework and Coordination Mechanism

The STDP is initially designed as a pilot regional program for developing countries in Asia with a vision of expanding it to other regions at the turn of the century. The program will be implemented by a network of institutions and agencies that have the resources to act as sources, producers, channels, and users of social technologies. The resources needed for an institution or agency to qualify as member of the institutional framework will be determined by a national committee formed by the STDP. The sources could be social science units of national and local universities; the producers could be the national and local production and printing agencies; the channels could be media agencies; and the users could be policy making bodies, government agencies, and nongovernment organizations.

As mentioned earlier, each participating country should have a national and several local STDCs. These STDCs will house the NCS and the LCS. It will also serve as the focal point of the other member institutions and agencies at the level that it is mandated to service. The national and local STDC will operate within the general administrative framework of the university or college where they belong and the general technical framework of the STDP. Each center will be designated and encouraged to provide leadership in one or more selected social technology areas based on its traditional social research capabilities, such as extension approaches in social forestry or resource management in community fisheries. Each STDC will enjoy independence in managing its preferred role. It will be encouraged to have its

own advisory council (AC) and a program management committee (PMC). A regional coordinating body will provide advisory role on policies and programs in each country. The AC may be composed of heads of institutions and agencies which house the STDC. The national coordinators from the participating countries may constitute the PMC.

STDC will be responsible for the following activities:

1. periodic assessment of the social technology needs of the network members;
2. coordination and referral of the development, production, dissemination and utilization of social technologies;
3. monitoring of the network inputs, activities and outputs; and
4. evaluation of the program effects and impacts.

The social technology developed by each local STDC will be based in its data bank and/or data bank of the national STDC. These may be protected by copyrights.

The need for innovative and culture-based technologies will continue to increase as we approach the 21st century. Now is the time to meet this need.

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A Sociology of the Heart*

Edgardo J. Angara

Sociology is the study of societal change; how technology affects social organizations as well as individuals. Both social scientist and politician are involved in the matter of defining social resources as well as the conflicts resulting from inadequacies in such resources. Responsible politicians often rely on data and analysis of social scientists in making decisions. Government in our time is impossible without science. Unfortunately, government often continues to function by political instincts and myths while science, for its part, has not always been exact. It is a necessary but negotiable relationship.

The conclusions and pet theories of social science have often formed the basis of public policy. Although later proven wrong, Margaret Mead's research on sexuality among the peoples of Polynesia did lead to certain changes in American public health and education. But researchers are not always as objective as they claim. They, too, quite often champion certain political agendas, and their conclusions can be found wanting after these have become common consumption. Politicians usually have to consider both the findings of science and the beliefs of lay people in policy making. In an imperfect world, politics is often called upon to mediate between science and tradition, reason and emotion. Neither science nor government can claim infallibility, both are often experimental projects seeking the best benefits for the most number while keeping losses to a minimum.

But while social scientists may suffer in time the criticism of their colleagues for wrong conclusions, politicians risk the immediate ire of hungry and dis-

possessed voters. It is difficult to say which is the worse fate or whose is the heavier burden. What is undeniable is that politicians and policy makers can no longer afford to be ignorant of science while scientists must consider the actual needs and wants of people as well as the realities of government.

Governments have never been shy about employing social science or social scientists for political ends. In developing countries, much of social science began as colonial projects designed to better understand and pacify conquered peoples. The peoples of Asia and Africa were taught to despise their own histories, cultures, and ethnicities. And yet the works of certain foreign scholars provide us with a treasure trove of knowledge about our past. H. Otley Bayer, William Henry Scott—these are names well respected by Filipino scholars. We must only learn to separate the grain from the chaff. Politics from scholarship.

Along with high-digit economic growth rates, we, in Asia and the Pacific have regained much pride and confidence in ourselves and in our ways. Asian historians are seeking to reexamine the past from indigenous perspectives. Asian thinkers endeavor to incorporate homegrown categories into sciences founded in Europe.

Asia is racing to the future. In capitals around the region, skylines are rising, urban planners are racing against time to build new roads to accommodate burgeoning automobile traffic. Farm lands are giving way to industrial parks and housing projects. We do live in exciting times. But such excitement, as the olden Chinese say, suggests prosperity as well as peril.

*Speech delivered at the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of Sociology (APRCS), Philippine Social Science Center, May 28-31, 1996.

Extremes of wealth and poverty are seen in many cities. Pockets of runaway urban growth contrast with rural hunger. Crime and corruption are multiplying. Minorities are losing their traditional lands to dams and power plants. Communal values and aesthetics are sacrificed to unplanned growth. Cyber technology co-exists with widespread illiteracy in many regions. There is no room for complacency. There is no reason to believe that rising gross national product translates invariably into improved quality of life for the majority. There is no reason to assume that anger in our streets results merely from too much too soon, rather than from a seething discontent that may yet explode into massive unrest.

More than ever, the tools and insights of social scientists must be employed by government in ensuring balanced, ecologically sound, democratic, and humane development in our region. More than ever, politics and knowledge must be imbued with social conscience.

Once upon a time, science promised us a brave new world. Much of that optimism has since been dissipated in wars as well as in the foibles of science's own making. Today, scientists and politicians go about their respective businesses with more moderation and less bluster. Promises made are more conditional than obligatory. We speak of the limits of growth and of sustainable development. We speak of equity and social justice. We acknowledge the plurality of truths and the validity of varied perspectives. More than an "archaeology of the mind," perhaps we need as well a sociology of the heart.

Let us envision a social science that trusts not only in cold statistics but in the warmth of human hopes and aspirations as well. Social science that relies on disinterested observations as much as on truthful testimony. Social science that both documents and dignifies. Science that sees not just objects of study but subjects whose lives can be improved. Science that cares and respects, that empowers the downtrodden and lends voice to the unseen. Science that dares to challenge and to speak the unspeakable. Science can become the great equalizer in our time but its benefits should redound to the many. For without democratization the world may increasingly be divided into the few who understand and have access to technology and the many who don't.

The coming century is touted to be the time of high technology. It is said that developing societies such as ours can leap-frog stages of development rendered irrelevant in our time, and focus on cybernetic and information industries. The possibilities are awesome. We can avoid costly and environmentally hurtful industries. But such outcomes can only be achieved if our people, especially the young, are provided the education sorely needed. No East Asian society achieved NIC status without investing heavily on education and human resource development. So far our government has been wanting in this regard. Social science can help in the rational allocation of resources to maximize educational opportunities for the country's teeming millions. Our brave new world may yet come to pass as a democratic, balanced, renewable habitat.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Social Scientists as Outstanding Young Scientists

Following is a list of social scientists given recognition by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) for outstanding achievements in their respective disciplines.

Ruperto P. Alonzo	Economics	1987
Arsenio M. Ballsacan	Economics	1992
Ma. Cynthia Rose B. Bautista	Sociology	1988
Romeo M. Bautista	Economics	1981
Ma. Socorro H. Gochoco	Economics	1991
Allan Benedict I. Bernardo	Cognitive Psychology	1995
Dante B. Canlas	Economics	1987
Fidelma R. Natividad-Carlos	Economics	1995
Ma. Cecilia Gastardo-Conaco	Psychology	1991
Emmanuel S. de Dios	Economics	1993
+Virgilio G. Enriquez	Psychology	1982
Ann Inez N. Gironella	Statistics	1985
Alejandro N. Herrin	Demographic Economics	1982
Felmo P. Lansigan	Statistics	1987
Joseph Anthony Y. Lim	Economics	1991
Manuel F. Montes	Economics	1987
Roberto N. Padua	Theoretical Statistics	1990
Vicente B. Paqueo	Human Resource Economics	1983
Ernesto M. Pernia	Economic Demography	1980
Corazon M. Raymundo	Population Science	1985
Amaryllis T. Torres	Psychology	1985

IS THERE LIFE AFTER TAX?

The Comprehensive Tax Reform Program

On July 31, 1995, the Associate Members of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) sponsored a symposium on the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program of the Ramos administration to provide PSSC's regular and associate member-organizations and the general public as well, with a background on the scope, limitations, advantages, and disadvantages of the proposed comprehensive tax reform program.

Following is a transcript of the speeches of the resource persons invited to shed light on the topic and the reactions of academicians who gave their insights on the proposed tax reform.

On Income Tax Reforms

Militinda Guevara

Undersecretary, Department of Finance

We all look forward to a Philippines which could provide its people a better quality of life. Our people deserve the best—our children deserve the best schools, the best universities, our parents deserve the best in public health, we deserve the best protection and the best roads. We share the same vision for a family. We know that to be able to provide the best for the members of our families, especially the children, parents have to work very hard. It is only when we are able to generate more income that we are able to provide them better food and give them economic freedom to enable them to do what they would like to do. When I was younger I always wanted to be a doctor but I couldn't be a doctor because we were poor.

I guess this country would have to strengthen its financing in order to provide economic freedom to its people, so that we can be what we want to be. In the past, we have had surpluses and critics of government have been saying that we realized our savings and surplus because we were always controlling expenditures and selling our assets. This is a fact that we do not deny. This is the fact of financial budgeting. If your income is not enough, you either have to control your expenditures or sell your properties. But

we agree with the critics of government because this pattern and behavior cannot be sustained. We cannot control expenditures forever because we also suffer. And we cannot sell assets forever because only the non-performing ones are left with us.

We all understand the problem but we differ in terms of direction. The most frequent observation that we hear from people is that we do not need a tax reform, we just need to improve tax administration. But improving tax administration is really more of a generalization. And it is a cliché. Everybody believes that but how do we do that? How do we translate this improvement in tax administration in real increase in collection? They say it's very easy—fire corrupt officials. But we all know how difficult it is even to fire an inefficient driver in government. It simply cannot be done. Commissioner Mison did that—he fired 300 corrupt officials in Customs but the Civil Service and the Supreme Court reinstated them and they're back to their old, sweet positions. And how do we determine who are the corrupt officials so that we can file administrative charges? Taxpayers always complain that they are being harassed. Even people from the Department of Finance are asking for bribe. But are they willing to file charges? Can they pinpoint these

guys so that something can be done against them? No. They complain but they cannot stand up to these people. Of course, they have their businesses to protect. I have not seen any taxpayer who has really stood up to denounce a corrupt official in the Department of Finance, the BIR, or the Bureau of Customs.

They say, "Let's jail tax evaders so we will serve everybody a lesson." They also say that everybody has to pay his tax correctly. We tried to prosecute the biggest tax evader in the country but the Supreme Court said, "Sorry, he is not a tax evader. You have not proved that he is a tax evader. You have to assess first before you can prosecute."

They say, "Don't introduce any tax reform, just administer the tax laws very well." But if you will look at the tax laws, they are very, very complicated. Even I, myself, cannot understand the tax rules. With respect to deductions, for example, they will only allow you a deduction if you travel abroad, if it is business class and if it is done twice a year. How are you going to prove that? If you travelled 100 times a year, will the BIR go through the rigor of examining all the documents whether you travelled business class or economy class? They have to do this for all taxpayers. And the regulation says that the expense can be allowed as long as it is related to your trade or business.

Of course, "related" comes from the word relative, our interpretations are "relative". As far as I'm concerned it's related to my trade or business, but as far as you're concerned it's not related to my trade or business. Related is as vague as the person interpreting it. Therefore, the discretion in our tax system is so wide and it provides so much opportunities for tax avoidance and corruption.

Let's take as example the Lucio Tan-San Miguel case. True, theoretically, the ad valorem tax is much superior, nobody refutes that. But in our Philippine case, we have to develop our own theories relative to our own culture. This guy, to whom no tax laws apply, has totally come up with new theories in taxation. I'm sorry that I don't have time to give you the facts but the values or the prices of beer declared by the manufacturers at the factory level which serve as the tax base have not changed for almost four years. Can you believe that? In fact, retail prices have been changing twice a year but they have kept their factory prices constant. If you will look at the production

cost, you will see that production costs have been declining through the years. This despite inflation. I tell you, he defies all trends in economics.

Then you say, administer the tax laws very well. How do you get a BIR guy to refute that if he is being offered a certain sum to accept the values? How do we do that? How do we make congressmen realize our problems when in fact we're not talking of policies but of something else?

The vision of the task force with respect to generating more revenues for the government is to propose a comprehensive tax reform program. The comprehensive tax reform program is not made up of real taxes. It is merely a restructuring of the tax system to broaden the base, to level the playing field, to make it more equitable, and to lessen the discretion so that we can have less corruption and less inefficiencies in government.

How do we aim to broaden the base? First, by rationalizing incentives. So many sectors are protected by policies in government and which do not share in the costs for financing the quality of life for the Filipinos. In other words, there are so many free riders in the economy. These are the ones given incentives because they are pioneers, because they are needed, because they are distressed, because they are in economic zones, because they are in horse racing, because they are superstars, because they are scientists, because they are senior citizens—name it! Because they are thrift banks, because they are participating in the breast feeding program. All these activities are given tax exemption and as long as they are given tax exemption it means that some members of society, a large sector, do not contribute their share in government.

I would like to look at taxes not as a responsibility but as the price everybody has to pay for the service which government provides. Except that in this country, everybody thinks that government service is for free. Take Meralco, for example. If we fail to pay our bills, the service is cut immediately. Why do we accept this? We are willing to pay because there is a service that we will get. The government also gives us service. If we tolerate these incentives, we're actually saying yes to some sectors to have everything for free, that we will just be the ones to pay for them; that we will just make do with the little services that we get and they can have theirs for free. That is actually

what we're saying if we say yes to incentives. With respect to imports, for example, would you believe that over 50 percent of our imports come duty free? And yet we keep on buying duty free products. If about 65 percent of our imports are duty free, it means that the tax base supporting the country is very, very small.

What we want to do is to broaden the tax base by withdrawing the incentives. Second, we would like the taxpayers to declare their revenues correctly. Taxpayers never declare their revenues correctly. Corporations are perpetually losing or corporations use several financial statements. And we tolerate this because there is no way by which we can check how much income they really make, particularly if they do not issue receipts. We connive with them because it's okay for us. We will not get the receipt as long as there is no tax.

The proposal of the task force is to have a minimum corporate income tax. We would like to stress that the minimum corporate income tax is not supposed to substitute for the regular corporate income tax. We are still going to have the corporate income tax except that the philosophy is that every corporation should at least pay a minimum amount for government. It's fair. Everybody should pay a minimum amount. How much is this minimum amount? We set it using assets of a corporation as an indicator. It is very simple. If you are able to generate a 3.45 percent rate of return on your assets (and that's very small), that's good enough. If you put 35 percent of that which is the corporate tax, you should at least be paying one percent of your assets as your corporate tax. That is the benchmark. We look at one percent of your asset and we compare it with the corporate income tax that you have declared. It is not even one percent. It has been lowered to .75 of one percent. If you're paying P500,000 as your corporate tax and .75 percent of your asset is P250,000, you have no problem because your corporate income tax is much higher than the one percent of your asset. But if you are perpetually not paying any tax to government, then we both have a problem because either you are underdeclaring your assets or you are overdeclaring your deductions. Then you have to pay a minimum amount. The minimum amount will not be imposed on new corporations, it will only be imposed on the fourth year of your operation because by that time, the corporation is supposed to be viable already.

We wanted to do that for individuals in business also because they are the most notorious in not declaring their revenues, like accountants, lawyers, etc. But we will try to develop the expertise with corporations first then we can move on to individuals.

The other more controversial tax is called the fringe benefits tax. Under the current system, a fringe benefit is part of your income. If you are given a motor vehicle, that's a fringe benefit. If you're given a free travel abroad, that's a fringe benefit. That is considered your income. If you are given a house where you do not pay any rent, that's a fringe benefit. If you are given access to loans at only two percent, that's a fringe benefit. Under the law, all types of income should be taxable except that since they are given in non-cash form they are not taxed. This is very inequitable because those of us who are given our salaries in full cash pay a full tax on the cash that we receive. But for people who are given their salaries in fringe benefits, let's say 50 percent of their income are given in fringe benefits, they only pay 50 percent of their tax due. So this is perceived as a measure to broaden the tax base and to introduce greater equity into the tax system. We want to pay our taxes but we don't pay because some are taking advantage. Other people are able to lessen their tax levy relative to others.

This is the loophole which we are trying to plug. In the distribution of taxpayers, only 20 taxpayers are in the top income bracket. Why? Because most of their income are given in fringe benefits since it has served as a convenient tax avoidance scheme. If you are given a fringe benefit by a corporation, under the current system, the corporation can deduct it hoping that the fringe benefit will be taxed at the level of the individual. But it is never done because the fringe benefit is never taxed at the hands of the individual.

What we're saying is if the corporation gives you a fringe benefit, it can deduct the fringe benefit but it will have to pay at 30 percent. They can claim it as a deduction. In many countries, fringe benefits are taxable. Australia and New Zealand are two of the most successful countries introducing fringe benefits. We would like to introduce it for equity purposes. Again, one of the questions is why do we have to interfere with business decisions? Why do we have to implement it? How do we determine which motor vehicle is used for business and which is for personal

use? That's easy to resolve. In Australia, for example, they have set the benchmark relative to their experiences. If the miles travelled per year is 40,000 miles or less that means that that is a fringe benefit because that person is just using the car to and from the house. But if it exceeds 40,000 miles each year, that means he is a salesman and he is using the car for business purposes. So they have certain safety nets to be able to minimize discretion.

Critics ask: why do we have to tax the expatriates when their rental income is not really income and it is not a fringe benefit because they did not want to come to the Philippines in the first place? Again, the rule is if they stay in the country for less than twelve months then that is not a fringe benefit but official business. Or if they travel for less than five days, again it's an official travel. But if the travel is for more than five days, that's another story. They mix official travel with personal business. That is our problem. Corporations declare their travels as official but they are actually personal. They bring their families and friends and they are all deductible. And every time they claim a deduction, it means that 35 percent of that which should have gone to government is foregone by government. We could have just used 35 percent of that to build more hospitals and more schools. That is our income tax reform for corporations.

For individuals, the exemption level will be increased following a certain parameter which is the poverty threshold. There are different definitions of who are the poor. We all think we are poor, but there is a national parameter of who is poor. The poverty threshold is about P59,000 and that will be followed. Under the tax reform program, given the exemptions, a family of four earning P76,500 will be exempt from income taxation. Each taxpayer will be given P20,000. Why P20,000? The per capita poverty threshold is P8,000 so the P20,000 is bigger than the per capita poverty threshold because we would like to exempt the basic minimum subsistence level from income taxation. Each dependent, including a non-working spouse, can claim P6,500. For those earning P140,000 and below, there will be a P1,000 tax credit. We're proposing three rates—10, 20 and 30. People who would like to misinform the public say that the initial rate of 30 is much bigger than the present initial rates which are 0, 1, 3 and 7. They ask: "What kind of reform is that? You're making the tax rate higher." But they are not comparable. We're talking

about apples and oranges because those people who used to be subject to 0, 1, 3 and 7 are no longer part of the tax base because we increased the exemption levels. So the marginal rate is 10, followed by 20 and 30. Why three? Why not one? Some people prefer the flat tax of 15 percent like in Hong Kong. Hong Kong can afford a 15 percent flat rate because the 15 percent is imposed on income from salaries, gross, without exemptions and deductions, plus (and that's the magic term) income from property. I do not know of any country which taxes corporations on gross because that was what we were trying to get away from since we introduced the VAT. We do not prefer the gross because of tax multiplication.

We are introducing ceilings and again, the ceilings have been very much criticized. Our ceilings are just the industry standards. On the average, how much does the industry deduct for travelling, for entertainment. We are introducing ceilings on the most abused deductions. Again, because of the public clamor we have what is called the gross income which means gross revenues less the cost of goods sold. The cost of goods sold would just be the cost incurred in the production of the goods, for example, cost of raw materials, salaries, cost of electricity. We have a very limited number of costs which can be deducted but the tax rate will be reduced to 17.5. There are many other deductions which will not be allowed but the tax rate will be reduced to 17.5. If you would like to avail of the other deductions but huge ceilings, then you go to the net profit approach but the tax rate is at 30 percent.

There are complementary reforms in tax administration which are very radical. This is what they call the bank secrecy law. This will not be giving a fishing expedition to all the examiners but the power will just be given to the Commissioner and it will be very limited, only in cases where there is a very strong suspicion of tax fraud. In many countries, United States, Canada, Japan, Germany, the banks automatically furnish the BIR any transactions which would be \$10,000 and above. If the Commissioner does not have an access to bank records of big taxpayers who are suspected of tax fraud, it will be very difficult to develop a tax fraud case. As you know, transactions now are no longer carried in cash. They are carried through computers and through checks. It's a very limited power and we are going to have a business-like attitude in the prosecution of tax evaders and

tax examiners. If you are caught not issuing receipts three times, for example, your business is closed and your license is suspended by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). You can go to court but until you win your case your license remains suspended. We are going to set up a mechanism through which taxpayers can file their complaints. An exam-

iner caught habitually harrasing a taxpayer, accepting bribes, assisting a taxpayer to cheat on his taxes will be suspended. He can go to court, he can go to the Civil Service, but unless he wins his case he remains suspended.

The tax reform program is very simple and it has very simple goals. It is a very simple dream. ■

On Tax Incentives

Carrie Sy
Deputy Director
National Tax Research Center

One of the key components of the comprehensive tax reform program is the provision on fiscal incentives. Strictly speaking from an economic point of view, if you have a totally free trade regime already in place, where monopolization or liberalization is already accomplished, where all businesses are already in the hands of the private sector, and there is complete provision of infrastructure and other related facilities, it may not be logical anymore to pursue a policy of fiscal incentives because fiscal incentives, or the grant of tax and duty exemptions, promote inequity in the tax system and rob government of revenues which it could have otherwise used for purposes that can serve the general public good.

When the task force on comprehensive tax reform decided to look at the structure of fiscal incentives still in existence, we had to keep in mind that we don't have a totally free trade regime in place, we don't have complete provision of infrastructure and other related facilities, and then we recognized that being in the league of less developed countries, we would be no match against highly developed countries, especially in attracting investments. We also had to keep in mind that we do not want to trigger off an incentive war in the ASEAN region because it would not be for the common good of all concerned. With this framework in mind, the task force developed the following philosophies: 1) fiscal incentives as compensation for genuine market failures, 2) industrial adjustment under a new trade environment caused by past policy-induced distortions for certain industries with potential competitiveness, and strong export linkages, and 3) to promote merit goods.

On that basis, the fiscal incentives under the Omnibus Investments Code or Executive Order No. 226 issued in 1987, is going to be retained with certain modifications. The reason for retaining EO 226, aside from the factors just mentioned, is the fact that it is the overall declaration of government's incentive promotion policy. First consideration is that the grant of incentives should be highly focused and time-bound. Second, it would be confined to industries that are exporting, catalytic, which means at the verge of exporting, and those which are undergoing industrial adjustment. Incidentally, industries under the last two categories shall be limited to five, the four-digit Philippine Standard Industrial Classification, or the three-digit Standard International Trade Classification levels. Firms exporting at least 50 percent of their output, whether traditional or nontraditional, should automatically be given fiscal incentives. The qualified exporters will include direct and indirect exporters. The initial list of industries under industrial adjustment support should serve as major input to an industry in which the country has comparative advantage, that is to say, the domestic resource content (DRC) ratio of the industry is 1.2 or lower. The shortlist of candidates for catalytic industries should include industries whose Philippine revealed comparative advantage (RCA) is 0.8 or higher, where our competitor countries' RCAs are declining and whose Philippine DRC ratios are 1.2 or lower. The final list of industries to be promoted will be selected from the initial list drawn out using criteria of domestic resource content and revealed comparative advantages based on in-depth industry studies. Once an industry is selected, all the firms in the sector should automatically qualify for fiscal incentives. This is

going to be a very special feature of the rationalized investments code once it is approved by Congress—the automatic grant of incentives.

The common complaint of investors nowadays is that before you can get the incentive, even if you are already a qualified BOI firm, you still have to line up, you still have to prove something, etc. This gets in the way of their investment initiatives. The industry analysis function should be lodged with the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) and/or NEDA (National Economic and Development Authority). Recent reports say that the DTI and NEDA will do it on a coordinative basis. There was a strong sentiment that it should be lodged with NEDA since the benchmarks to be used are DRCs and RCAs, and the impression was that NEDA is in a better position to handle this. But at the same time, DTI is already in the mainstream of industry analysis so its experience and expertise in the area could be put to maximum use. The BOI will then undertake the administration of fiscal incentives and the monitoring of registered firms.

Location in developed areas will disqualify new firms from receiving fiscal incentives even if they are engaged in activities listed in the IPP (Investments Priorities Plan). Accelerated depreciation and net operating loss carry over shall be universally available to all firms. The reason for the universal grant of accelerated depreciation is to enable businesses to invest in new technology. If we insist that they make use of straight line depreciation, then they are going to have a longer period of time by which to recover their investment and therefore the initiative to go into newer and better technology is stymied. Regarding net operating loss carry over, it is observed that most countries are offering a carry over deduction on the premise that if government can share during good times, wouldn't it also be proper that government share during bad times.

Briefly, the new package of fiscal incentives will be as follows:

1. For those exporting on a firm basis, there will be double deduction of training, research and development, and market development, with a note that the double deduction shall be limited to regular deduction once the proposed restrictions on deductions are adopted. Why double deduction on training?

Because this is what industries need to be globally competitive. As for research and development, we know that our country has one of the lowest budgets for research and development. This is the reason why other countries are overtaking us in terms of generating newer and better products and becoming more globally competitive. On market development, especially if you are in the export business, we need to finance market development efforts.

They will also be provided a duty free importation of capital equipment, and as an additional support, the income tax holiday. However, the income tax holiday may already lose its attraction if we have the net operating loss carry over and the accelerated depreciation deduction.

2. For catalytic industries and industries undergoing industrial adjustment, the incentives are again, double deduction of training, double deduction of research and development. No market development deduction is provided for catalytic industries and industries under industrial adjustment. Then there is duty free importation of capital equipment but there is no income tax holiday. Drawbacks on raw materials used for exports will be retained.

3. Pioneer industries engaged in new technology maybe granted assistance through provisions of a notional subsidy.

As to be noted, the existing Investments Code has provisions for pioneer industries. At the discussions of the task force, it was gathered that the definition of pioneer industry leaves much to be desired. Anything can be pioneer but a more objective concept of pioneer would mean one that is really trailblazing, something that is really new, and is going to be produced for the first time in the country. Like for instance, robotics. But right now, that is not how the provision of pioneer industries is structured under the Omnibus Investments Code. So the task force, as far as it is concerned, would like to do away with the concept of pioneer industries. But the BOI fought for the retention of pioneer industries and the compromise is that they will be granted provision of a notional subsidy.

Fiscal Incentives Under Special Laws should be in accordance with the following criteria:

1. activities specified in the Constitution like education, religion, and charitable institutions;
2. activities spelled out in international agreements; and
3. activities that promote the provision of merit goods such as low-cost housing, and agrarian reform.

Special incentives laws that provide incentives to specific economic activities should be withdrawn and integrated with the Omnibus Investments Code. This is going back to the old structure of the Omnibus Investments Code. Sometime ago, mining was under the Omnibus Investments Code. So was shipping, shipbuilding, ship repair, etc., and tourism. Now we will put them back under the Omnibus Investments Code for a more directed and a more focused implementation.

Special service incentives should be given to petroleum, geothermal, coal mining, and mineral resources explorations. The package of incentives

shall be reviewed, considering more service-oriented incentives.

The comprehensive tax reform program might be legislated on a piecemeal basis. We think that some provisions can already be implemented by the BOI. For instance, the need to focus or delimit the coverage of the Investment Priorities Plan. The BOI is already doing that. It is now a much shorter and more focused IPP. The BOI is also starting to wean away from its regulatory function. The Foreign Investments Incentives Act has just been reviewed and there will be a revision. In the other sectors, we are already trying to set up one-stop shop centers and investment information centers. All of these should enable the country to become competitive in terms of being an investment center as against other countries in the region, without too much need of parting away with its tax revenues which it could anyway use for other purposes. ■

Public Opinion on Philippine Taxation

Meliza Agabin

Vice President, Social Weather Stations (SWS)

Luz A. Bautista

Fellow, SWS

We are happy to share with you the results of numerous surveys that Social Weather Stations (SWS) has done about taxation, how the public feels about taxation, what they have in mind, etc.

Opinion is not something that is carved in stone. Opinion shifts. It is volatile. It is affected by events, by things that affect the pocket, the stomach, and the emotions.

The first chart gives an idea about some procedural aspects of our survey. The last round of national survey that we conducted in April shows the number of households and the number of respondents. We usually cover 1,200 households and a total of 2,400 respondents with an error margin of +/- 2 percent.

Chart 1. Fieldwork dates and sample size, National Survey, April 1996.

Fieldwork Dates		
NCR	April 12-May 1, 1996	
Balance Luzon	April 20-May 5, 1996	
Visayas	April 15-May 5, 1996	
Mindanao	April 18-May 5, 1996	
	Sample Size	Error Margin
Households	1,533	
Questionnaire A	1,200 respondents	+/-3%
Questionnaire B	1,200 respondents	+/-3%
Total	2,400 respondents	+/-2%

Chart 2 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of our respondents, the adult voting age population. It shows the distribution in terms of rural/urban areas, in terms of region and economic class. What we use is the economic classification used by marketing agencies where A and B include the rich, C- the middle class, D- the poor, and E- the destitute segment of the population. Class D is where 72 percent of our adult population belong.

Chart 2. Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, Philippines, April 1996 (Column %).

<i>Locale</i>	
Urban	51
Rural	49
<i>Location/Locale (pre-determined)</i>	
NCR	15
Bal. Luzon	42
Urban	20
Rural	22
Visayas	21
Urban	8
Rural	13
Mindanao	23
Urban	9
Rural	14
<i>Economic Class</i>	
ABC	9
D	72
E	19
<i>Sex (pre-determined)</i>	
Male	50
Female	50
<i>Age</i>	
18-24	17
25-34	29
35-44	24
45 & above	30
<i>Civil Status</i>	
Single	20
Married	74
Living as married	4
Widow/widower	1
Separated	1
<i>Educational Attainment</i>	
Some elementary	13
Elementary graduate	18
Some high school	14
High school graduate	19
Some/completed vocational	6
Some college	13

College graduate	15
Post college	0.5
No schooling	1
<i>Working status</i>	
Working	39
Private	16
Self-employed	34
Government	8
Not working	30
Never worked before	12

This chart also shows the gender and the age classification. A very high proportion of our adult population are married and the rest shows the educational attainment and whether they are working or not. These socio-demographic characteristics pertain to the April survey. However, data from previous surveys will be presented as well, so there will be slight variations in the socio-demographic characteristics.

From 1983 to the present, the SWS has conducted 32 national surveys measuring economic and social indicators, including among others, poverty. Recently, which means from the late '80s, taxation has also been included. We have been monitoring taxation more closely in the '90s, after the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Department of Finance became our clients.

Presented here are survey evidence particularly on three aspects: the citizens' attitude on tax payments; the public's attitude on the tax collecting agency; and attitude towards government spending of tax funds. What is the public's opinion about paying taxes? Or about taxation? As far as our readings allow, the Filipino attitude towards taxes and taxation can be summarized as follows: there is a high resistance against taxes and there is a feeling of being taxed too much. But things are not hopeless. Some positive things can be gleaned from the Filipino's attitude towards being taxed based on the survey results obtained so far (Chart 3).

Chart 3. Filipino attitude as a taxpayer, highlights of survey findings.

- Tax resistance is high.
 - There is a feeling of being taxed too much.
- BUT
- The Filipinos' attitude toward being taxed is not hopeless.

Survey findings show that more Filipinos are willing to pay taxes if certain conditions are met (Chart 4). This is based on the April 1990 up to December 1995 probes on Agreement/Disagreement with various test statements. The Filipino taxpayer is willing to pay income taxes if these are reduced. This is a universal feeling across all demographic variables. The net agreement is simply the difference between those who Agree and those who Disagree. In the first statement, "If income taxes are reduced", there is a very high net agreement of 59 in our last probe. There is also willingness to pay taxes if they know more about where the taxes go. The net agreement is even higher here at positive 65.

Chart 4. Citizen's attitude on taxes: willingness to pay taxes, Philippines, April 1990 to December 1995.

	Agree	Disagree	Net*
<i>Test Statements</i>			
"If income taxes are reduced, more people will be willing to pay their taxes."			
October 1995	71%	12%	+59
"If taxpayers knew more about where the taxes they pay go, they would pay more readily"			
October 1995	75	10	+65
"The citizens pay more taxes to the government if they expect it to improve its services to them."			
April 1990	51	28	+23
November 1994	50	30	+20
December 1995	39	47	-7
"It is useless to pay more taxes to the government because the money will be wasted or stolen."			
April 1990	50	21	+29
"The taxes collected from E-VAT will help support our economy." (Base: aware of E-VAT)			
April 1996	44	33	+11

*% agree minus % disagree

Looking at what taxpayers say when asked to pay more taxes so that government can improve its services to them, we read here that the Filipino public demands improvement in the government's delivery of services to its citizens but it is less willing to pay more taxes for the same. This is where some worrisome trends appear because it shows that tax resistance has increased to a worrisome level. It was +23 when we first probed this particular issue back in the '90s but it became -7 in our December '95 survey. Also, one of two respondents is prone to resist paying more taxes because of the perception that the money will be wasted or stolen anyway. The feeling that it is useless to pay taxes to the government because of unwanted leakages is insufficiently neutralized by those who disagree to the test statement that it is useless to pay more because the money will be wasted or stolen anyway.

We share with you this particular data gathered about the Value Added Tax (VAT)—the taxes collected from E-VAT will help support our economy. There is a grudging acknowledgement of the positive contribution that VAT can do for the economy and even for equity purposes but there is resistance to VAT. It was found that although there is high awareness about the Value Added Tax, there is very little understanding of what it is all about. There is a very low level of knowledge and there is a demand for simple, more straightforward messages about it so that the taxpayer will understand it.

We also probed the same aspect of willingness or hesitancy to pay taxes with an open-ended question on the reasons citizens pay taxes (Chart 5). The question was asked during the October 1995 survey round. The responses generated were varied but what emerged is that tax payments are needed primarily to finance government development projects and social services. This is a positive aspect of public attitude where a total of 69 percent say that they pay their taxes to support government in providing its citizens with social services and to support government development projects. There is also a realization that taxes are needed so that the bureaucracy and the civil servants can be paid their salaries.

What is interesting is the response that paying taxes is a responsibility of the citizens. This is still a very small minority, seven percent, but this is something positive that can be cultivated through messages that bring about the civic responsibility of

citizens toward the government and the country. The fact that 69 percent say yes to social services and government development taxes is an appreciation of the importance of taxes to better equity. So there is an appreciation of where their taxes go despite resistance to higher taxes and the concern about leakages.

Chart 5. Reasons why citizens pay taxes, Philippines, October 1995.

For government development projects and social services	69%
Investments in infrastructure	23
Government projects/source of government funds	20
Economy	7
Education	6
Calamity funds and calamity victims	5
Welfare of the poor	4
Health	3
Employment	1
For government officials/employee salary	24
It is the citizen's responsibility	7
For foreign debt payment	1
Can not say	16

On the moral inclination toward paying taxes, the question is: Is it right or wrong to underreport income in order to pay less taxes? Chart 6 shows a strong public sentiment that this action is wrong. It is very wrong to underreport income. We have asked this question twice, the first in 1991 and then in 1995. The latest results affirm what we found in 1991. As mentioned earlier, one of the reasons why citizens pay taxes is because they feel it is the responsibility of citizens to pay these. But is this attitude or perception carried out in terms of how one behaves? In November 1994 and June 1995, we asked whether there was an improvement in the voluntary compliance with tax laws (Chart 7). The margin saying "more compliance now" over "less compliance now" has slightly improved to +17 versus +14 when we first did the probe.

Looking at the negative aspect which has to do with tax evasion, we find that Filipinos are very worried about tax evasion and they see this as a very serious problem (Chart 8). This kind of senti-

ment is true across all areas and across all age groups. When asked who they think are the worst tax evaders, majority said that they have no idea, but those who answered that they have an idea point to big business and the rich and powerful individuals (Chart 9). This is an open probe and other answers were provided. Some names were supplied including names of actresses, and of Lucio Tan. But the public is not yet losing faith that the government will catch tax evaders and that they will be punished. Although few believe that big tax evaders will be caught and punished (Chart 10).

One question looks at public attitude towards the kinds of taxes and the nature of the tax system, in particular, whether taxes are high, fair or just, or whether the tax system is orderly. In June '95, three-fourths of the public perceived that the taxes are too high and should be reduced (Chart 11). We have some comparative data on this with European countries although not for the same period (Chart 12). The test statement is: Taxation is much too high or too high for those with high incomes, with middle incomes, and with low incomes. Results show that comparatively, Filipino perception is close to the public opinion in Australia with respect to the test statement relative to the group with high incomes. We are also close to the public sentiment in Hungary when it comes to the middle incomes, but we are much better off in terms of how taxes are perceived relative to the low incomes. All the other countries show much higher percentages saying that taxation is much too high for those with low incomes. There is also very strong support for progressive income taxation in the Philippines (Chart 13). If we compare this with the other countries, we're not doing too bad. This is another positive aspect.

The October 1995 survey on what the public thinks about the fairness or unfairness of taxes shows that only 21 percent, a minority one-fifth, say that taxes are unfair (Chart 14). There are unfair taxes and these are withholding tax and real estate tax, according to the public. Similarly, we examined the justness of the tax laws in two probes: in November 1994 and in June 1995 (Chart 15). If we combine the responses for just and orderly, and the just but disorderly, we find a significant percentage of 76 who are in effect saying that the tax laws are just. We might wonder why there seems to be conflicting views. How do we reconcile these?

Chart 6. Opinion on taxpayers who do not report all their income in order to pay less taxes, Philippines, July 1991 and October 1995.

	July 1991				October 1995			
	Not wrong	A bit wrong	Wrong	Seriously wrong	Not wrong	A bit wrong	Wrong	Seriously wrong
Philippines	6	13	63	18	4	10	56	30
NCR	8	12	60	19	3	14	59	24
Bal. Luzon	5	12	66	15	2	8	60	31
Urban	6	15	63	15	2	10	63	25
Rural	7	10	68	15	2	5	57	36
Visayas	7	11	60	21	7	13	49	29
Urban	6	18	53	21	11	13	37	39
Rural	8	8	63	21	5	16	57	22
Mindanao	3	16	61	19	5	9	52	35
Urban	3	19	54	23	7	11	45	38
Rural	3	15	63	18	3	8	56	33
Total Urban	6	15	59	19	5	12	54	29
Total Rural	6	11	65	18	3	9	57	31
ABC	9	9	63	19	4	16	60	20
D	6	14	61	18	4	10	55	31
E	4	11	67	17	5	8	54	33
Male	6	14	60	20	4	8	56	32
Female	6	12	66	16	4	13	56	28
18-24	6	16	64	14	4	14	52	30
25-34	6	13	61	20	5	10	57	28
35-44	6	10	65	18	3	11	59	27
45 and above	6	12	62	18	3	8	53	35

[PR2] Q114. In your opinion, if a taxpayer does not report all of his income in order to pay less taxes, is this...?

Chart 7. Voluntary compliance with tax laws, Philippines, November 1994 and June 1995 (Base: Aware of BIR).

	No time frame indicated* (November 1994)			Compared to 12 months ago (June 1995)		
	More now	Same	Less Now	More now	Same	Less now
RP	27	59	13	34	46	17
NCR	23	66	10	29	54	15
Bal. Luzon	23	64	12	30	52	13
Visayas	33	48	17	39	37	22
Mindanao	30	54	15	39	36	22
Urban	27	59	13	35	46	16
Rural	26	58	14	31	46	18
ABC	24	62	14	33	47	16
D	25	60	13	34	47	16
E	35	50	13	31	42	25

*NOV94) Sa inyong opinyon, may paghabago po ba sa dami ng nagkukulang tumupad sa mga batas ukol sa buwis? Masasabi po ba ninyo na mas marami ngayon, kapareho ng dati o mas kaunti ngayon?

Chart 8. Extent of the tax evasion problem, Philippines, April 1996.

	Very serious	Moderately serious	Not serious	Not a problem
Philippines	46 %	41 %	10 %	2%
NCR	57	38	5	1
Bal. Luzon	38	49	11	3
Urban	39	45	14	2
Rural	36	52	9	3
Visayas	49	36	13	3
Urban	60	27	10	2
Rural	42	41	14	3
Mindanao	52	36	10	1
Urban	53	35	10	1
Rural	51	37	10	1
Total Urban	50	38	10	2
Total Rural	42	45	10	3
ABC	54	37	8	1
D	45	42	10	2
E	45	41	11	2
Male	46	40	10	3
Female	46	42	10	2
18-24	40	48	10	2
25-34	45	39	12	4
35-44	48	42	7	2
45 and above	49	40	11	1

[PR2] Q121. Sa inyong palagay, sa ating bansa, ang pag-iwas po ba ng mga mamamayan at mga kumpanya na magbayad ng tamang buwis ay...[NAPAKASERYOSONG PROBLEMA, HINDI GAANONG SERYOSONG PROBLEMA, HINDI SERYOSONG PROBLEMA, o HINDI PROBLEMA].

Chart 9. Worst tax evaders in the Philippines (Open-ended), Philippines, August 1994.

	Distribution of all replies	Distribution of specific replies
Don't know	60.0	
Big business	23.4	42.3
Rich and powerful	13.9	25.1
Entertainment	6.8	12.2
Government	6.0	10.9
Foreigners and minorities	2.9	5.3
Professionals and small business	1.3	2.3
Low income	0.6	1.1
Illegal elements	0.4	0.7

Chart 10. Test statement: "Eventually, big tax evaders will be caught and punished," Philippines, October 1995.

	Agree/ Strongly agree	Undecided	Disagree/ Strongly disagree	Net Agreement*
Philippines	61	17	21	+40
NCR	66	17	17	+49
Bat. Luzon	58	16	24	+34
Total Urban	57	17	25	+32
Total Rural	59	16	23	+36
Visayas	62	17	21	+41
Total Urban	69	11	19	+50
Total Rural	58	21	21	+37
Mindanao	62	18	19	+43
Total Urban	69	17	13	+56
Total Rural	57	19	23	+34
Total Urban	64	16	20	+44
Total Rural	58	18	23	+35
ABC	66	17	16	+50
D	61	16	23	+38
E	59	20	19	+40
Male	62	16	21	+41
Female	60	18	22	+38
18-24	61	22	16	+45
25-34	62	14	23	+39
35-44	65	16	18	+47
45 and above	57	17	24	+38

*% Agree/Strongly agree minus % Disagree/Strongly disagree.

[PR2] Q87. Test statement: "Eventually, big tax evaders will be caught and punished."

Chart 11. Simplification of the tax system, Philippines, June 1995.

	Philippines	ABC	D	E
<i>Which of the two statements is closest to your view?</i>				
The tax system is too complicated; it should be simplified	25	32	26	17
Taxes are too high, they should be reduced	74	67	74	82

Chart 12. Taxation in relation to levels of income, European Countries (1987) and Philippines (1992).

Taxation is much too high/too high for those...

	...with high incomes	...with middle incomes	...with low incomes
Philippines	45%	31%	30%
West Germany	12	49	80
Hungary	17	34	53
USA	17	68	67
Italy	18	61	84
Britain	24	40	85
Netherlands	25	57	76
Australia	34	59	69

Survey Sources: EC = British Social Attitudes, 1987

RP = SWS, December 1992

- Q: Generally, how would you describe taxes in the Philippines [in Britain, when asked in Britain, etc.]? (We mean all taxes together, including national insurance/security, income tax, VAT and all the rest. First, for those with high incomes, are taxes... Next, for those with middle incomes, are taxes... Lastly, for those with low incomes, are taxes...
- much too high
 - too high
 - about right
 - too low
 - much too low

Chart 13. Support for progressive income taxation, European countries (1987) and Philippines (1992).

	Much larger share/larger share
Philippines	63%
Italy	77
Britain	75
West Germany	73
Netherlands	70
Hungary	69
USA	64
Australia	63

- Q: Do you think that people with high incomes should pay a larger share of their income in taxes than those with low incomes, the same share, or a smaller share?
- much larger share
 - larger share
 - the same share
 - smaller share
 - much smaller share

Chart 14. Perception of unfair taxes, Philippines, October 1995.

YES		21%
Can't say	7	
Labor and employment/employee/small-income employees/withholding tax/teacher/seamen/rendence/sales commission/incentives	4	
House and lot/real estate/agricultural land	3	
Value added tax (VAT)	2	
Sari-sari store/small business/vendors	2	
Rice/basic commodities/jollibee food/medicine/pharmacy/agric'l products	1	
Gasoline/Energy/Transportation tax	0.6	
Others (GATT/Res. certificate tax/ATM card)	0.6	
Business/Corporate/Big establishment tax	0.5	
Entertainment/Cinema/Recreational tax	0.3	
NO		79%

Note: Responses below 0.1 are not included.

[PR2] Q116. Are there any taxes at present that in your opinion are not fair? If yes, which taxes are these?

Chart 15. Justness of the tax laws and orderliness of the tax collection system, Philippines, November 1994.

	Location					Economic Class		
	RP	NCR	IUZ	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
Just and orderly	33	25	35	29	37	26	33	33
Just but disorderly	43	41	44	46	38	41	43	42
Orderly but unjust	14	21	12	15	12	16	14	15
Unjust and disorderly	10	13	8	8	13	16	9	10
Total Just	76	66	79	75	75	67	76	75
Total unjust	24	34	20	23	25	32	23	25
Total	100	100	99	98	100	99	99	100
Total orderly	47	46	47	44	49	42	47	48
Total disorderly	53	54	52	54	51	57	52	52
Total	100	100	99	98	100	99	99	100

Q220: "Alin po sa mga sumusunod ang pinakamalapit sa inyong opinyon tungkol sa sistema ng buwis sa Pilipinas? Makatarungan ang batas ukol sa buwis at maayos naman ang sistema ng pangongolekta, Makatarungan ang batas ukol sa buwis ngunit hindi maayos ang sistema ng pangongolekta, Maayos ang sistema ng pangongolekta ng buwis ngunit hindi naman makatarungan ang batas, Hindi makatarungan ang batas ukol sa buwis at hindi rin maayos ang sistema ng pangongolekta."

Chart 16. Just income tax for various occupations, Philippines, June 1995 (Row %).

Question: "How much is a just tax for the income of a..."

	<10%	About 10%	About 15%	About 20%	>20%
Businessman	9	16	20	22	31
Physician	12	19	30	22	26
Public Elementary School Teacher	48	52	12	5	2
Farmer	82	12	3	1	2

We also asked about how much is a just tax for the income of a business man, of a physician, a public elementary school teacher, and a farmer (Chart 16). This is comparing two groups which are in the A/B or more privileged category and those that are probably in the lower C or D, mostly D category. There is support for some kind of progressive taxation here with the majority saying that farmers should be taxed less than 10 percent, public elementary school teachers no more than 10 percent, while it is just okay that businessmen and physicians are taxed much higher.

What would be a better way for government to help a group in need? Is it subsidy or is it tax exemption? There is a split of opinion here (Chart 17). In past probes, we asked about controlling prices and subsidizing certain commodities. But when asked if it is okay for them to pay higher taxes to support subsidies or price control, the public showed resistance.

We now look at how the national administration is rated on three issues: going after tax evaders; tax collection; and collecting taxes fairly (Chart 18). We also take a quick look at how the BIR is perceived as a tax collecting agency. There are gaps in the data because the questions are not asked regularly. On the question of going after tax evaders, there is a small net of 13 percent as of the latest probe. How is the government faring in terms of tax collection? The satisfaction is not really that good. A +30 and above can be considered as being moderate and a +50 and above a good sentiment. On collecting taxes fairly,

there is a deteriorating trend of -13. This shows that people want a more efficient and fairer collection of taxes.

Chart 17. What would be a better way for government to help a group in need: subsidy vs. tax exemption, Philippines, December 1994.

	Spend for their benefit	Give them tax exemptions
RP	48	51
NCR	44	55
Bat. Luzon	40	60
Urban	39	61
Rural	41	59
Visayas	54	45
Urban	47	52
Rural	58	40
Mindanao	58	40
Urban	57	42
Rural	59	38
Total Urban	45	54
Total Rural	51	48
ABC	46	53
D	47	52
E	50	48

[PR2] Q81. "Alin ho sa dalawang sumusunod ang mas mabuting paraan para matulungan ng gobyerno ang isang grupong nangangailangan... Gumastos ang gobyerno para sa kanilang kapakinabangan o Bigyan sila ng tax-exemption; alisin ang kanilang dating obligasyong magbayad ng buwis?"

Chart 18. Net performance ratings of the National Administration on tax-related issues, April 1993-April 1996.

	1993				1994 1996	
	Apr	Jul	Sep	Dec	Aug	Apr
Go after tax evaders			+1	+13		
Tax collection	+16	+13				
Collecting taxes fairly				-1	-13	

How is the BIR rated as a collecting agency (Chart 19)? The benchmark here is April 1994 when the present revenue commissioner took over the BIR. There was a moderate satisfaction rating in April 1994 but the decline in rating beginning in December 1994 was related to the VAT issue. The relatively low but positive rating starting 1995 was related to the Flor Contemplacion case and the latest ones to the rice crisis. Almost all government agencies suffered from low ratings at that time, even if the BIR was remotely related to the Flor Contemplacion case. No government agency then was in good standing as far as the public was concerned. In October 1995, the government suffered because that was when the national administration received a high negative rating. Even the President himself had a negative rating at that time.

Chart 19. Net performance rating of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Philippines, April 1994-October 1995.

Net rating of BIR	
1994	
April	+20
August	+11
November	+14
December	+8
1995	
March	+9
June	+7
October	+2

On the performance of the BIR in specific functions, there is a generally moderate rating except for promoting tax information dissemination (Chart 20). Although results of the April 1994 probe shows a +22 which is good. There was a decline in April 1995 but this is probably because there has been a new level

of standard for the public. The public would like to see the BIR being able to prosecute erring BIR personnel as shown in the very low satisfaction with the disciplining of corrupt officials and on the reduction or eradication of graft and corruption within the BIR. In terms of the quality of service of BIR personnel as compared to several years when we probed it in December 1994, there is a positive but very low rating.

One interesting result is the answer to the question: What is the source of corruption in paying taxes (Chart 21)? A lot of people answered that the citizen is not the source but the tax collectors. "He tempted me so I bribed him." Public perception about tax collectors is not very good with only eight percent saying that 90 percent or more are honest in their work. This is a very worrisome aspect (Chart 22).

When asked about their willingness to pay more taxes, 50 percent said, "Why should I pay taxes when it will only be wasted?" Where do people want their taxes to go more? To something that is concrete, something they see and use such as roads, bridges, communication facilities, development of industries, schools, health, peace and order. A small percentage of two percent say that the money will only go to corruption (Chart 23).

Where do the people want the government to spend much more, more, the same? Where do they want it to spend much less (Chart 24)? The number one service in which they want government to spend more is health. Next are for social welfare, education, and housing which are really for the social benefit of the population. Environment is also rated very high, even spending for military and defense. We asked this question in August 1994 and about 50 percent of the adult population say that the government should spend more for the security of the country against external aggression.

The survey also inquired about government spending in the past and how they prefer government to spend (Chart 25). Did the government spend more than the tax collected? An assessment of government spending in the past five years was asked in April 1995—did it spend more, did it spend just enough, or did it spend less than the tax collected? A plurality answered that in the past five years, the government spent more than it collected. But in 1994, the perception that government is spending much more than it has been collecting has declined considerably by half.

Chart 20. Net improvement/performance rating of BIR in specific functions, Philippines, April 1994-April 1995.

Base: Aware of BIR

	April 94 (NI*)	November 94 (NI)	December 94 (NPR**)	April 95 (NI)
<i>Functions</i>				
Reforming the tax system			+21	
Promoting taxpayers' information dissemination now vs. 12 months ago	+22			+1
Simplifying taxpayers' compliance procedures now vs. 12 months ago	+28			+14
Catching those who cheat in tax payments			+18	
Prosecuting tax evaders	+16		+9	
Disciplining corrupt officials			+5	
Reducing/eradicating graft and corruption within the BIR	+9		+5	
Present quality of service of BIR personnel compared to 5 years ago		+2		

*Net improvement = % improved - % worsened

**Net performance rating = % satisfied - % dissatisfied

Chart 21. Source of corruption in paying taxes, Philippines, June 1995.

	Philippines	ABC	D	E
<i>Which of the two statements is closest to your view?</i>				
The source of corruption are the corrupt citizens because they bribe tax collectors	38	39	38	41
The source of corruption are the corrupt collectors because they tempt the citizens to cheat	58	60	57	58

Chart 22. Perception of tax collectors, Philippines, December 1995.

Test statement: "In your opinion, how many tax collectors are honest in their work?"

	RP	NCR	Location Bal. Luzon	Vis.	Mfn.	ABC	Class D	E
90% or more	8	3	11	9	6	2	9	8
About								
75%	17	15	17	16	19	14	17	18
50%	27	28	29	21	30	38	27	24
25%	24	31	22	26	21	23	23	25
Not even 25%	20	22	16	26	20	18	20	20
Don't know	4	2	5	3	5	4	3	6

[PR2] Q126.: Sa palagay ninyo, ilan sa mga mangongolekta ng buwis ang tapat sa kanilang trabaho? (90 porsiyento o sobra; mga 75 porsiyento; mga 50 porsiyento; mga 25 porsiyento; hindi man lang 25 porsiyento).

Chart 23. Perceptions as to where most of the collected taxes are spent, Philippines, October 1995.

	Percent
Roads, bridges, and communication facilities	37
Development of industries	14
Establishment and maintenance of schools	12
Health, sanitation, and medical facilities	9
Maintenance of peace and order	6
Water supply and irrigation	6
Improvement of social and labor welfare	5
Maintenance of national security	5
Corruption	2
Labor and calamity victims	1
Government officials' salary	1
None	4

Note: Responses below 0.6 are not shown.

[PR2]Q112: Where do you think most of the tax collected are spent? Please choose only one.

Chart 24. Desired adjustment in government spending, Philippines, August 1994 to December 1995.

	Spend much more	Spend more	Spend the same as now	Spend less/ much less
Health				
August 1994	14%	60%	23%	4%
October 1995	34	46	19	4
Social welfare				
October 1995	26	45	25	4
Education				
August 1994	14	55	24	7
December 1994	16	47	23	13
December 1995	19	61	14	5
Housing				
December 1994	8	41	30	20
December 1995	14	53	22	10
The environment				
August 1994	10	54	30	6
December 1995	14	54	24	7
The police and law enforcement				
August 1994	6	43	38	13
October 1995	14	38	36	11
Science and technology				
December 1994	7	37	35	20
October 1995	21	46	27	6
December 1995	10	51	25	14
Transportation and communication				
December 1994	4	34	37	24
December 1995	8	43	31	17
Tourism				
December 1994	4	30	39	25
December 1995	6	39	35	20
The military and defense				
August 1994	5	45	39	11

Chart 25. Past and preferred government spending, Philippines, April 1995.

	In the past 5 years	In 1994	Preferred in 1995
Spent more than the tax collected	41%	24%	31%
Spend as much as the tax collected	19	23	26
Spend less than the tax collected	16	28	21
Don't know	24	26	21

Reactions

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Reforming the income tax system is arguably the most important aspect of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program. It is also the most controversial and perhaps the most difficult to push. Ideally, the package of tax reforms that will emerge from Congress is one that would enhance the revenue yield of direct taxes without sacrificing the fairness of the tax system.

Why are direct taxes important?

In an earlier article (*Asian Development Review*, Vol. II, No. 2, 1993) I argued that one of the tax policy challenges for developing countries in the 1990s is how to make direct and domestic indirect taxes more efficient and high yielding. This is largely because of the inevitable decline in importance of trade or border taxes as countries reduce their tariffs as part of their trade liberalization program and in response to their commitments to their trading partners.

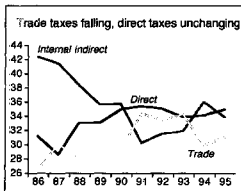
The other reason is that the relative share of direct, internal indirect and trade taxes are greatly influenced by the available tax bases. Previous studies using cross-country comparison show that as econo-

What does the public prefer in 1995? Less than a third said that it is okay for the government to spend more than the taxes it collects.

To summarize, the survey findings show that among Filipino taxpayers, there is high resistance against taxes and there is a general feeling of being taxed too much. But there are positive aspects about the sentiments, about what they think and their opinion that make the situation not really hopeless. ■

mies develop from a traditional (agriculture-based) to a modern economy, mobilization of resources through taxation changes. Consider the following stylized facts. At the initial stage of development, countries rely on trade taxes. As countries expand their markets through open trade, their reliance on trade taxes decline; the need for revenues to finance government operations will then compel governments to source them from internal indirect and direct taxes. Initially, internal indirect taxes progressively replace trade taxes, but as a large part of the economy becomes more monetized, direct taxes soon exhibit accelerating predominance in the modern society.

A look at the Philippine experience in recent years shows a declining share of trade taxes in the '90s accompanied by a fairly constant share of direct taxes after a sharp rise during the second half of the '80s. Since trade taxes will continue to decline in importance in the years ahead, the share of direct taxes has to rise. But that is not happening. In fact, it dipped slightly because of the Simplified Net Income Taxation. Republic Act 794 which adopted the Simplified Net Income Taxation Scheme (SNITS) was enacted in 1992 but its impact was initially experienced in 1993. The government also approved various tax legislations that provided various tax exemptions (RA 6715, 6810, 6847, 6938, 6948, 6958, 6971, 7109, and 7156) thereby further eroding the tax base.



Clearly, the most important challenge for reformers of Philippine income taxation is that its share to total must increase. Failing in this aspect would mean that the government's fiscal position would most likely deteriorate and the tax system would most likely become less equitable.

Comments

Let me comment first on the proposals contained in the comprehensive tax reform program. The basis of my evaluation of specific proposals are the so-called "nice" properties of tax system, namely: equity or fairness, allocative efficiency, revenue yield and administrative simplicity. The tax proposal should satisfy both the vertical and horizontal equity criterion. The costs of inefficiency arising from the proposal in the sense that it distorts the behavior of economic agents (consumers, firms and factory owners) should be low as possible. The tax reform measure should raise significant amount of resources. In general, the additional tax yield should be compared to the additional cost of collecting taxes. The administrative simplicity criterion means that the proposed measure should improve tax administration by making it less difficult to administer. Its other dimensions are: certainty of tax rules; removal of

discretion on the part of tax collectors and tax administrative bodies; transparency; and accountability. For many countries where the tax administrative machinery is weak—in many cases, also corrupt—administrative simplicity is very important.

On the basis of the above criteria, I strongly favor the tax on fringe benefits and setting limits on allowable deduction. The latter is part of the 1986 Tax Reform Program but was not implemented. It is long overdue. However, I favor the setting of a global ceiling on deductions rather than specific limits on separate deductible items. The latter is too restrictive and makes administration more cumbersome.

The proposed reforms in personal income taxation are more in the nature of tinkering rather than real reform. The present system of applying different tax rates to different types of income will continue. I would argue that real reform should be in the direction of a comprehensive income tax system (CITS) wherein incomes, regardless of source, should be treated equally. The proposed reforms will also reduce the fairness of progressive income taxation (PIT). And it is not clear whether the government can afford the loss in revenues given the anticipated loss in trade taxes. With three options and separate tax schedules for fixed and other tax filers, the PIT will become more complex.

On the proposed reforms in the corporate income taxation (CIT) system, lower tax rates for small firms will lead to the break up of big firms into small ones. This is highly distortionary and may lead to big losses in efficiency especially if there is scale economies in the industry. Large revenue losses may result because firms have the option to choose the applicable tax scheme. With three options and separate schedules for each option, the CIT system will become more complex.

I object to the reimposition of the tax on dividends. Admittedly, it will impose heavier burden on the rich, but it will also impose new burden on retirees and the elderly. It will reduce the already dismally low rate of capital accumulation, and thereby the long-term growth of the economy. While the short-run revenue impact is favorable, its long-run effect is likely to be adverse because of its negative impact on capital accumulation.

Now, consider what is missing in the CTRP. For many reasons, the real property tax (RPT) system deserves a serious look. Its tax yield is dismal. A one percent nationwide real property tax on top of the RPT imposed by local governments may be approved. It will have the following advantages: first, it will improve the allocation of resources, say from real estate speculation to job-creating activities; second, it will reduce the costs of land acquisition for the government's agrarian reform program; and third, it will raise revenues for the national government which it could then use to retire its huge domestic debt.

Rene Ofreneo

Professor, UP School of Urban and Regional Planning

I think the idea of having a Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP) is a welcome one but it should be truly comprehensive and truly reformist. Some positive comments are raised but the CTRP has one glaring shortcoming. The proponents discussed the need for simplicity, the need for enhancing efficient collection, etc., but they failed to put as one of the guiding principles the need to make our tax policy employment-friendly. And that to me is very important.

Earlier, Undersecretary Guevarra discussed the problem about 65 percent of imported goods coming in duty free. Most of these goods are unnecessary luxury items. Yet, the other day, Rene Cayetano discovered an old Marcosian law saying that there is no legal basis to allow Subic, Clark and the other free ports in the country to restore this \$200 duty free privilege. We are the only country in the world with this duty free business concept catering to domestic or local residents. Usually, duty free shops cater to foreign tourists and they are only confined to airports. Even in economic terms this is a violation of the concept of leveling the playing field. Now you are only creating jobs for foreigners, and if you have a relatively high or over-valued currency then this is a formula for disaster. If I were the Undersecretary, or if I were the head of the National Tax Research Center (NTRC), I would send a very strongly-worded memo to Malacañang about this.

Summing up

The proposed reforms in the area of direct taxation is a mixed bag. The best proposals are the tax on fringe benefits and the imposition of ceilings on allowable deductions. Congress should move towards the adoption of a comprehensive income taxation system rather than the complex proposals contained in the CTRP. Finally, in order to improve resource allocation and the fairness of the tax system, Congress should impose an additional one-percent real property tax on nationwide basis. ■

Director Sy mentioned earlier about the need to give some fiscal incentive or assistance to some types of industries; those that are catalytic and those undergoing restructuring. This is also good. Also, the idea of having a time-bound and performance-bound fiscal incentive is really long overdue. I have been arguing with my economist friends at the University of the Philippines that the issue in this country is not so much whether we should practice protectionism or not. I think the problem is we practice the wrong kind of protectionism. Unlike in Japan, Korea and Taiwan, our protectionism was not target-specific, was not time-bound, was not performance-bound. And that's why you can see historically that protectionism in the 1950s, when it was focused on the development of new and necessary industries, was more successful compared to the protectionism under Macapagal and Marcos which was mainly based on generalized tariff protection for all industries without any distinction. There was no targeting, it was not time-bound, not performance-bound and was therefore hard to measure.

As regards the issue of being employment-friendly, I remember the case of Sweden in the '80s when they had recession. One measure which they used to engineer some kind of economic recovery was the reduction of taxes on income that was re-invested on new productive undertakings. I think that is worth pursuing especially if the income is

reinvested on increased processing. With regard these tariff reforms, Ben (Diokno) mentioned that we are under GATT/WTO but there still is a need to rationalize our tariff system. Our friends in industries cannot understand why we have a 40 percent tariff for CBU's (completely built cars) and three percent tariff for parts. That's why Proton Zoga is wavering in its plan to set up a parts manufacturing plant in Pangasinan. Anyway it's only three percent so why bother setting it up. In spite of our having the longest history of car development program in the ASEAN region, our car industry is the most underdeveloped. Our local counterpart is still twenty percent. And just last month Indonesia announced its Indonesian car. Malaysia, although it was widely criticized in the '80s for trying to produce its car with a very limited market, has succeeded in developing a truly Malaysian car that can compete in the world similar to the car industry that was developed by the Japanese in the 1950s. I recall distinctly the comment of John Kimberzen that Japan had no comparative advantage in car making (this was in the 1950s), but this did not prevent Japan from persevering and developing its car industry which later on in the '70s became the world standard.

Giving allowance for productivity, research and training is very good, but this reminds me on the other hand of a dead letter law that we had. In 1989-1990 we had this gain-sharing law which gave generous incentives to companies that pursue productivity enhancement programs, but the results of productivity should be shared equitably. I don't know what the drawback in that law is—maybe it's in the sharing, and maybe if all the incentives will just go to the employers it will work better.

Another issue being raised by our friends in industry is that CTRP has failed to address the taxation powers of local government units (LGUs), and in many areas this is creating confusion and preventing some businesses from making long-term business plans. I hope this can be addressed because, anyway, this is a comprehensive tax reform program. The powers of LGUs to tax should be properly defined. Some of the LGUs are very tax-happy.

It's very good that Ben mentioned the need to reform the issue of property. We discussed this last month with the head of North Quadrangle, Hermie

Dumlao, and he told me that he is worried that there's an accumulation drive all over the country in real estate companies. We cannot understand why they are allowed to engage in this crazy and very economically devastating concept of land banking. Imagine hoarding land, this national patrimony, and just hoarding land for years, just like the Marina property of Tan Yu. He got the property ten years ago and development took place only lately when the prices appreciated. I think this is very bad. Many of our land resources are already beyond the reach of not only ordinary workers but also middle-income earning people. That's why the proposal of Ben to tax increasingly those idle lands hoarded is very much welcome. Maybe it should be higher. For example, if you take a trip from Cagayan de Oro to Iligan, both sides of the national highway (that's about 160 kilometers) are already bought by these real estate companies. But you see, there's no development going on there except in the Xavier estate, and the main buyer there is Ayala Land. This is very bad, and the ordinary taxi drivers in Cagayan de Oro told me that this land area is very productive.

Again, in relation to employment-creation, we cannot make a strong position on this proposal to shift from ad valorem to specific tax, especially when applied to cigarettes. Maybe with regard to beer, since the competing companies are both Filipinos, there's no problem. But with regard to cigarettes you'll be doing a very big favor to imported cigarettes and to the producers of Virginia Leaf in the United States which cannot find a market in the world because of this anti-smoking ban all over. I think it's not just a question of coming up with a favorable policy for Lucio Tan but you have to recognize that this is a major industry and this is supporting many of our farmers in the North. Incidentally, one reason why Harry Stonehill became very unpopular to the American business community in the 1960s is that he was the one who brought here the imported Virginia leaves and distributed these to Ilocano farmers. And this put a stop to our importation of Virginia Leaf—that was the beginning of the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration (PVTIA), and that's why they ganged up against him; you had American IRS (Internal Revenue Service) supported by the FBI. In business, there's always corruption in this country, but this corruption is of a different type.

With regard to equity (and there's already so much discussion about this), the most common complaint of labor leaders who come to the School of Labor and Industrial Relations is that among the tax-paying groups in our country, they are the most heavily-burdened because they are the easiest to monitor, and their tax is the easiest to collect. Now we discuss the issue of discretion, and it's good that the Undersecretary touched on the Hong Kong case. Maybe there's a need to review the Hong Kong case or the proposal to have a simpler, more universal but lower gross taxation. I think that up to now, people are confused about this value-added taxation. With regard to workers, it's true that the exemptions are increased but they are asking for a cut-off of P100,000. I think that is too

high. I think this should be studied further because the government will be at a disadvantage.

Finally, on the issue of broadening the tax base, it's a problem since we have a very large informal sector. According to the estimates of the Department of Labor and Employment, about 52 percent of the labor force are in the informal sector. It is a big challenge really how to expand the formal sector and even if they do not pay immediately in the short term, once they are part of the formal sector, they will be contributing more to the overall tax efforts. Our proposal on the Kalakalan 20 is a failure to a great extent. They now changed it to Kalakalan 10, but still our labor groups are insisting. Maybe a better proposal is to make it Kalakalan Familya, or Kalakalan 5. ■

**CALL FOR PAPERS
AND FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT
2nd Asia Pacific Regional Conference of Sociology (APRCS)**

Faculty of Arts and Sciences
University of Malaysia
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
18-20 September 1987

Social Transformation in Asia. The beginnings of the 21st century signal the emergence of the Asia Pacific Region as a dynamic economic and cultural bloc linked to global processes. The increased interaction between various countries in this Region is gradually bringing together areas of cultural experiences and social knowledge. For some time now, sociologists from Asia and the Pacific have shown great interest in studying these processes.

The first APRCS was held in Manila in May 1986. The success of this meeting has encouraged the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaysia, to organize a second meeting of sociologists in the region. The conference will provide a venue for meeting of minds devoted to sociological research in the Asia Pacific Region.

Sub-themes, Conveners and Addresses

Family Diversity
Core Lamug
University of the Philippines
Los Baños, Philippines

Gender Relations
Jamilah Aulfin
Institute Sultan Iskandar
University Technology Malaysia
P.O. Box 160, 81307 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia

Cities: The Problems of Urban Growth
John Western
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
The University of Queensland
Brisbane, QLD 4072, Australia

Modernity and Identity
Lee Ming-Jwan
Department of Applied Social Studies
The Hongkong Polytechnic University
Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Ethnicity, Culture and Religion
Raymond Lee
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
University of Malaysia
50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Economic Liberalization and its Impact on Social Life
Ruchira Gangulay-Scrase
School of Arts and Cultural Heritage
Albury, NSW 2640, Australia

International Migration
Azizah Kassim
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
University of Malaysia
50603 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Diana Wong
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Singapore
ISEAS
Singapore

Health and Social Welfare
Rozah Omar
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
University of Malaysia
50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Theory Formation in Asian Sociology
Yoshio Sugimoto
School of Sociology and Anthropology
La Trobe University
Bundoora VIC 3083, Australia

Media and Communication
Pahmi Winter
Sociology Programme
University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105, Hamilton
New Zealand

If you would like to present a paper, please send an abstract in the following format to the relevant Theme Convener by end of March 1987

Title of paper (capitals, bold)
Author, organization/institution, address, phone and fax numbers, Email address
Single spacing
10 point font
3 cm left margin with right margin aligned
No more than 200 words

PSSC NEWS

PSSC General Assembly Midyear Meeting

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) held its Midyear Meeting at the Alip Auditorium of the PSSCenter last 17 August 1996. The midyear activity, which started at 10:00 a.m., was attended by 12 members of the General Assembly, 11 members of the PSSC Board of Trustees, 23 representatives of associate member-organizations, and several other guests and friends of the PSSC.

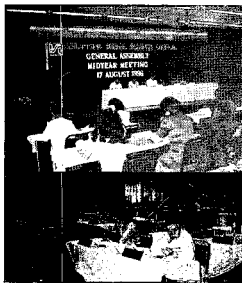
The highlight of this year's midyear meeting was the approval of the proposed amendments to the current PSSC By-Laws which include, among others, the submission by regular member-associations of two nominees to the Board of Trustees—the first to serve on a regular basis and the other to serve as alternate in case the first cannot attend BOT meetings—and the inclusion of four representatives of associate member-organizations in the PSSC General Assembly.

Midyear Report

Dean Jose N. Endriga, PSSC Chairperson presented to the body the Council's midyear accomplishments which covered 1) the convening of PSSC's regular working committees and ad hoc committees; 2) the reorganization of the Secretariat into three sections namely, the Technical Support and Information Section (TSIS), the Financial Management Section (FMS), and the Center Management and Administrative Section (CMAS); 3) the new grantees under the Research Award Program (RAP); 4) recent PSSC publications and new acquisitions of the Frank X. Lynch Library; and 5) the resumption of operations of the PSSC Book Center and Central Subscription Service.

Treasurer's Report

PSSC's financial report as of June 1996 was also presented by Dean Felipe M. Medalla, Treasurer. He



reported on the Council's positive financial position as shown by the 51 percent income (of the targeted P5.134M for the year) realized from rentals and other regular sources, and 49 percent revenue (of the projected P1.495M for the year) from investments and other interest and incremental income sources. Likewise, the Council showed to be operating within its budget with a total expenditure of P3.145M as of June 1996 or 44 percent of the projected P7.202 M expenditure for the year.

PSS Representation

The General Assembly also approved during the midyear meeting the nomination of Dr. Clemen C. Aquino as the Philippine Sociological Society's representative to the PSSC Board of Trustees, serving the unfinished term of Dr. Virginia A. Miralao who was earlier appointed as PSSC Executive Director.

New Associate Member

A new associate member-organization, the UP Folklorists Society was also welcomed to the PSSC with the approval of its membership by the General Assembly. Misses L.B. Valencia and Elvira Verano were present to acknowledge the Society's inclusion in the PSSC's roster of associate members.

Associate Members' Breakfast Meeting

Earlier at 8:00 a.m. on the same day, Dr. Eduardo T. Gonzalez, associate members' representative to the PSSC Board of Trustees, presided over the associate members' midyear breakfast meeting attended by some 16 representatives of associate member-organizations. Dr. Gonzalez informed those present of the initiatives taken by their representatives to the PSSC Board to ensure a more active participation of the associate members in the programs and decision-making processes of the Council. A major achievement for the associate members was the allocation of four seats for their representatives in the General Assembly albeit without voting power.



Also discussed during the meeting were the proposed program of activities to be undertaken by the associate members such as those similar to the symposium on the tax reform package of the government which they sponsored, and a possible research training program for associate member-organizations which will be later conceptualized based on the results of a survey on the training needs of associate members in the fields of research management and research methods.



Is There Life After Tax? Symposium on the tax reform package

THE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS of the Philippine Social Science Council sponsored a symposium on the tax reform package of the Ramos Administration last 31 July 1996 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mercedes B. Concepcion Seminar Room of the PSSC Center. Subtitled "Is There Life After Tax?" the symposium aimed to present and analyze the implications of the new tax program on the national economy, on business, and on the ordinary Filipino household.

Speakers during the symposium were Finance Undersecretary Milwida M. Guevarra who tackled the issue of income tax reforms; Dr. Dante V. Sy, Deputy Director of the National Tax Research Center who spoke on tax incentives; and Misses Meliza H. Agabin and Luz A. Bautista, both of the Social Weather Stations who presented the prevailing public opinion on Philippine taxation.

Reactions to the issues were presented by Prof. Benjamin E. Diokno of the UP School of Economics and Dr. Rene E. Ofreneo of the UP School of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Dr. Eduardo T. Gonzalez gave the opening remarks while Dean Jose N. Endriga delivered the closing speech. Dr. Grace Agullin-Dallsay moderated the proceedings.

ANNUAL CONFERENCES HELD

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PAP) held its 33rd Annual Convention last August 8, 9 and 10, 1996 at the PSSCenter's Alip Auditorium. Centering on the theme "Psychology and a Culture of Peace: Enriching Relationships and Establishing Balance", the convention had former Ambassador Manuel T. Yan, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and Chairman of the GRP Negotiation Panel for Peace Talks with the Southern Philippine Autonomous Groups (GRP-SPAG), as its keynote speaker. The three-day convention covered sessions on such relevant issues as 1) the impact of armed conflict on children; 2) women, war and peacemaking; 3) gender and attitudes towards peace and violence; 4) the institution of peace among the ethnic Kalingas; 5) violence and streetchildren; and 6) teaching peace in Philippine public schools, among others.

THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION (PSA) had its annual conference for 1996 at the Stoffels Room of Hotel Rembrandt last October 29. Ms. Paula Monina G. Collado, Officer-in-Charge of the Social Demographic Statistics Division of the National Statistics Office (NSO), presented the paper on "Literacy and Mass Media Exposure." Based on the results of the 1994 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) conducted by the NSO and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the paper looked at "how literate is the Filipino" and "identified what types of mass media are patronized and owned by Filipinos."

Discussions on the topic were led by Dr. Napoleon Juanillo of the Ateneo de Manila University and Director Clifford A. Paragua of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

Jointly held with PSA's annual conference was the closing ceremonies of the National Statistics Month. Dr. Andrew Gonzalez, president of De La Salle University gave the address while Dr. Romulo A. Virola, Secretary General of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), delivered the closing remarks.

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY (PNHS) held its 17th National Conference on National and Local History last October 23-25, 1996 at the Conference Room of the Institute of Social Order, Ateneo de Manila University.

Centered on the theme "The Revolution in the Provinces," the three-day conference touched on revolutionary struggles in Tondo, Cavite, Batanes, Tarlac, Pampanga, Aklan, Panay, Western Misamis, Lanao, and Zamboanga. Papers were also presented on the issues of nationalist historiography, the concept of nation during the revolution, the role of the elite in the revolution, and the historicity of Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere*, among others. There was also a comparative account of the 1896 Philippine Revolution and anti-colonial struggles in Africa.

THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, INC. (PASWI) held its 1996 Annual Convention last November 19-20, 1996 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. The Convention focused on the theme "Social Work and the Challenges of Change" and zeroed in on changes in the areas of politics, social development, health, science and technology, family relations, urban and rural centers, gender relationships, values and ideology, and socioeconomic conditions, among others.

Also presented during the convention was the Gintong Puso Award for the best chapter which was awarded to PASWI-Isabela Chapter. The newly-elected members of the PASWI Board of Directors were also proclaimed during the latter part of the convention.

THE PHILIPPINE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (PHA) held its annual seminar last November 22-23, 1996 at the National Historical Institute in Manila. "The Philippine Revolution of 1896 Revisited" was the theme of this year's seminar which sought to 1) examine the nature, causes and effects of the Philippine Revolution of 1896 based on the latest documents available; 2) understand and evaluate the events during the Philippine Revolution from the Philippine perspective; and 3) assess the impact of the Philippine Revolution on the current

issues in Philippine society such as globalization, poverty, and degradation of the environment. The keynote lecture on "The Philippine Revolution in the Context of Asian History" was delivered by Prof. Oscar L. Evangelista, PHA president.

The other issues discussed during the seminar were on historians and the Philippine revolution, the use of amulets in the revolution, the role of the ilustrados and the collaboration issue, and the Muslim perspective on the Philippine revolution, among others. Papers were also presented on Bonifacio and Rizal.

The seminar was jointly sponsored by the Philippine History Foundation and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

UGNAYANG PANG-AGHAMTAO, INC. (UGAT) held its 18th National Conference on "The Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines: Knowledge, Power, and Struggles" last October 17-19, 1996 at the La Trinidad Valley Hotel in La Trinidad, Benguet.

Discussed during the first day of the conference was the issue on indigenous knowledge systems which included the areas of health, healing, agroforestry, and forest ecology. Women and children's welfare, the impact of development projects on indigenous communities, and policy issues relating to indigenous peoples were taken up on the second day.

In summary, three major issues emerged during the conference, namely, 1) the relationship between the indigenous peoples and other development practitioners, particularly the need for partnership in advocacy on the issue of ancestral domain; 2) a rethinking of Western paradigms as they relate to theory and methodological issues in anthropology; and 3) the future of UGAT and ethics in action.

The conference was sponsored by the Japan Foundation, Manila office; the PSSC; and the UP College of Social Sciences and Philosophy.

VISITING COLLEAGUES FROM VIET NAM

A GROUP OF SOCIAL SCIENTISTS from Viet Nam's National Center for Social Sciences and Humanities (NCSSH) visited the Philippine Social Science Council last August 15, 1996 as part of their mission "to establish a new kind of cooperation in ASEAN countries as an offshoot of Viet Nam's entry into ASEAN and to explore possibilities of future cooperation in a more official way." The group included Dr. Pham Duc Thanh, director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies; Dr. Nguyen Van Ky, vice-director, International Cooperation Department; Dr. Khong Dien, director, Institute of Ethnology; and Ms. Dang Anh Phuong, regional program officer, International Cooperation Department.

Dean Jose N. Endriga, PSSC Chairperson; Dr. Noemí Catalan, PSSC Trustee; and Dr. Virginia A. Miralao, PSSC Executive Director met with the Vietnamese delegation to discuss possible collaborative work between PSSC and NCSSH.

Dean Endriga in Viet Nam

Later in mid-October 1996, Dean Jose N. Endriga paid a return visit to the NCSSH, as a follow-up on initial discussions between the two institutions. On his return, he conveyed the request of NCSSH's International Cooperation Department for PSSC to help train Vietnamese scholars and NCSSH members in social science research techniques and methodologies. The PSSC Board of Trustees are now exploring ways and means to respond to their request.

How high an IQ should a President Have?

Allen L. Tan*

People with stratospheric IQs tend to take great pride in their intelligence and assume that the intellectually gifted can do almost anything better. That certainly includes governing a country as president. Psychologists have been studying intelligence for about a century now and have accumulated enough data to allow them to assess the extent to which a high IQ can translate into an effective presidency.

What is intelligence? Psychologists have been debating this question for many decades. They even quarrel as to whether intelligence is one thing or seven things or 120 things. Perhaps the most practical way to answer this question is to define intelligence as being whatever it is that IQ tests measure. This may sound strange, but it has an undeniable advantage: the way that intelligence is defined will at least correspond to the way it is measured.

There is much agreement that IQ tests mostly measure various forms of abstract thinking. Typical questions in an IQ test look like this:

1. What follows after 3, 6, 10, 15...?
2. Boat is to fish as airplane is to...

The first question measures abstract thinking of a mathematical nature; the second question measures abstract verbal thinking.

Now, one certainly has to have average IQ to become a president. That is because the leader of just about any group (a gang, a union, a civic

organization) almost always has an IQ higher than that of the average person in a group. He is usually someone who is respected for being able to figure out problems and find good solutions for them. However, he cannot be too intelligent for then the group members may have difficulty understanding him. In fact psychologists have figured out that the emergent leader of a group usually has an IQ 1 to 1.5 standard deviations (around 15 to 22 IQ points but this varies depending on which IQ test is used) higher than the average IQ of the group. The more intelligent, the better their problem solving skills which will be recognized by the group members. But if they are too intelligent (relative to the IQ of the average of the group member), there is a good chance that they will not be understood and therefore unappreciated by the group members.

When it comes to the presidency, California (UC Davis) psychologist Dean Simonton gathered data on the lives of all presidents and estimated that the average American president has an IQ of about 119. Candidates with too high IQs tend to have a difficult time getting elected as they tend to think and speak over the average voter's head. Their thinking might be too complex for the average voter to understand. (Adlai Stevenson is often held up as proof that an intellectual cannot be elected.)

Interestingly, the average British prime minister has been estimated to have an IQ that is about 15 points higher than that of the average American president. This is because the average British voter votes for a Member of Parliament who is presumably somebody 15-20 IQ points above the average voter. These

*Allen L. Tan was named an Outstanding Psychologist by the Psychological Association of the Philippines last August 1995.

Members of Parliament in turn elect a Prime Minister who is another 15-20 IQ points higher than the average MP. (The Prime Minister is able to become a Member of Parliament in spite of his huge IQ superiority over the average voter because the political parties have "safe" seats: districts where their party almost always wins.)

Granted that it takes a minimum above average IQ to become president, (estimated to be an IQ of 119), beyond that there is actually little correlation between IQ and effectivity as president. As long as the president has the intellectual abilities represented by this IQ, other cognitive and personality traits play at least an equal, if not a more important role in determining a successful presidency.

To begin with, there are other cognitive problem solving skills required in a presidency. A high IQ is most useful when one has to solve academic problems such as those one finds in school examinations. However, people have long known that many students who get very high grades do not necessarily become big successes later in life. Conversely, in class reunions 20 to 25 years after graduation, people are always amazed at how some of the dumber kids in class turn out to be highly successful businessmen or entrepreneurs. Observations such as this have led psychologists to a concept of common sense intelligence which includes the ability to solve real life problems and predicts success in the real world and is different (but not necessarily opposed to) from academic intelligence which is still the best predictor of school grades.

Ulric Neisser, a leading cognitive psychologist, pointed out some differences between school problems and practical life problems which partly explains why different cognitive skills may be involved in each one. Academic tasks (what you find in class exams as well as IQ tests) are 1) formulated by others, 2) often of little personal interest, 3) provided with all the needed information at the beginning, and 4) usually unrelated to an individual's everyday experiences. To this list, Wagner and Sternberg add that academic tasks are usually well defined, have only one correct answer and often have only one method of obtaining the correct solution.

In contrast to this, practical real life problems tend to be 1) unformulated or in need of reformulation, 2) of personal interest, 3) lacking in information

necessary for a correct solution, 4) related to everyday experience, 5) poorly defined, 6) have multiple solutions none of which are completely correct nor completely wrong, and 7) have multiple paths towards picking a solution.

Developmental studies have shown that academic intelligence peaks in the 20s while practical intelligence continues to improve and peaks in the 40s or 50s. (Which is why young people get impatient with how dumb their elders are, while the older generation sighs with exasperation at the little understanding that young people have of life.)

Textbook economic problems, for example, have neat mathematical solutions. To increase per capita GNP by so many percent, encourage savings so that interest rates decrease thus stimulating capital investment, creating more jobs, etc; while at the same time lowering the birth rate. In the real world, however, what do you do when people refuse to save more than is needed, mount protests when lower interest rates start fueling inflation, and refuse to have fewer babies? This is where a president needs practical intelligence over and above his academic intelligence.

Another cognitive trait that has proven important in successful governing is flexibility as opposed to rigidity. Leaders have to be able to see a problem from various angles and to avoid being too dogmatically stubborn about some ideology or concern. A good example of a flexible leader is Deng Xiaoping who has managed to survive many political turns and has managed to steer the Chinese economy into a capitalistic mode while maintaining that they still have a socialist country. Staunch ideologues tend to be cognitively simple and usually end up as failures in governing.

Aside from common sense intelligence and intellectual flexibility, a number of personality traits have been identified that could contribute to an effective presidency. I will discuss two important ones here: the need to achieve and the need for power. Harvard psychologist David McClelland has studied the need to achieve for decades and in fact sees it as a better predictor of school grades than intelligence. He sees IQ as some kind of potential, but the extent to which this potential is realized depends on how much the person is motivated to achieve (thus the phrases "underachievers" and "overachievers"). Presidents with a

high need to achieve tend to set ambitious goals for which they work hard to accomplish. Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy, and Lyndon Johnson were all high achievers (as measured from their speeches) and their New Deal, New Frontier, and Great Society programs were all major attempts to change the status quo in society. President Fidel Ramos has set up an ambitious agenda in Philippines 2000 and his relentless pursuit of this goal manifests a high need to achieve.

The need for power is defined as a desire to influence other people's behavior. Presidents with a high need for power are willing to use the resources and great influence of the Office of the Presidency to get things done or to get their way on matters. This can take the form of firing incompetent officials, pressuring local government officials to "toe the line", or persuading congressmen to pass administration-sponsored legislation. McClelland's student David Winter analyzed the speeches of American presidents and rated them for the need to achieve and the need for power. He found that the most effective presidents were those who scored high on both. A successful president must set high goals for his presidency; then he must be willing to use the resources of the presidency in order to fulfill that agenda.

There is therefore much evidence that it takes more than just a high IQ to be an effective president. Based on biographical data, psychologists estimate that the four most intellectually brilliant American presidents were Thomas Jefferson, John Kennedy, Woodrow Wilson, and John Quincy Adams. Jefferson is enshrined in Mt. Rushmore while Kennedy's abbreviated term is generally considered successful. Wilson was the only U.S. president with a Ph.D. but his failure to successfully set up the League of Nations left him with no significant legacy. Quincy Adams was a one-term president who failed to get re-elected.

Here in the Philippines politicians have started positioning themselves for the 1998 presidential elections. Most of the potential candidates are probably of above average intelligence while some are obviously of superior intelligence (e.g., Edgardo Angara and Miriam Defensor). While superior intelligence is certainly an asset, having it does not automatically guarantee an effective presidency. Fortunately, psychological research is giving us a better idea of some other qualities that are also important in selecting a president.



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Council-Members: Up-close

U.P. Statistical Center

History

The Statistical Center, initially called the Statistical Training Centre, was created under an agreement concluded on December 11, 1953 between the Government of the Philippines and the United Nations. Its central objective then, as now, was to advance the development and maintenance of a high level of efficiency in statistical activities in the country. In accordance with the agreement, the Government provided the services of a director and lecturers, premises and other facilities. The United Nations furnished the services of foreign statistical experts to assist in the direction and technical work of the Center.

Established primarily to work for the improvement of statistical services in government, the Center provided formal in-service training programs and consultation services for government agencies. The first of such training program was offered in October 1954. Academic offerings preceded the in-service training programs, however. The academic program began a few months earlier, with the enrollment in June of that year of 40 students in the Master of Arts in Statistics program. Most of the students likewise came from government agencies.

In cognizance of the need for high caliber professional statisticians with capability to assume the functions and responsibilities of the U.N. experts, the U.N. statistical advisers instituted the Master of Science in Statistics program in 1955. With the development of local, highly qualified faculty, the services of the U.N. experts were terminated in 1963.

It was during this period and well into the late '60s that the Center extended consultation and training services not only to the Philippine government but also to the governments of neighboring countries. Students from neighboring countries, particularly Korea, Thailand, and Indonesia, trained under the Center's non-degree training and academic programs. A one-year diploma course was instituted to further encourage foreign and local students to enroll at the Center.

In 1964, the curriculum for the Bachelor of Statistics program was approved by the University Council. In 1967, the Center instituted the B.S. in Statistics program. This program provided students with better mathematical preparation than the earlier program. Changes in the master's programs followed suit. The following year, the Master of Arts in Statistics and the one-year-diploma program were abolished, and the Master of Statistics program was introduced. In 1978, the Center accepted its first student to the Ph.D. program.

At present, the Statistical Center offers a bachelor's degree in Statistics, Master of Statistics, Master of Science (Statistics), and Ph.D. (Statistics). It also offers the introductory statistics course, Statistics 101, a service course taken by students from various colleges.

In addition to teaching, the college regularly conducts non-degree training programs on Basic

Statistics and Exploratory Data Analysis, Regression Analysis, Forecasting with Time Series, and Statistics for the Social Sciences. It also conducts, upon request, in-house training programs on econometrics, categorical data analysis, multivariate statistics, sampling statistical software, and quality control and improvement. It provides free statistical consultation services to unfunded research projects through the Statistical Computing and Consulting Laboratory. The college also provides technical assistance and advice to government agencies through college representatives sitting in technical committees of the National Statistical Coordination Board and the Statistical Research and Training Center.

The college faculty undertakes both commissioned and unfunded research projects. Research findings are usually presented in the Graduate Seminar Series in Theoretical and Applied Statistics, a continuing seminar conducted throughout the academic year.

In the late '80s, the Center began to rely more on the use of statistical applications software in enlivening and enhancing the teaching of statistical theory and techniques. There has since been increasing emphasis on the application of the techniques to real data in the undergraduate and master's courses.

Increasing accessibility and affordability of personal computers and statistical applications software have also made it possible for the Center to once again take an active role in providing non-degree training in statistics, an area which it neglected for some time when its curricular programs consumed most of the attention and energies of its faculty. The Center has also become more active in providing technical assistance to government as well as private companies and non-governmental organizations through consultancy services and research. Some of its faculty, for example, serve as members or resource persons of technical committees of government agencies, statistical or otherwise. The Center faculty and graduate students have been providing free statistical consultancy services to worthy unfunded researches since 1990.

Roles and functions of the Statistical Center

The Statistical Center performs various functions as an academic unit in the University and as part of the

Philippine Statistical System (PSS). The PSS consists of the major government statistical agencies—National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), National Statistics Office (NSO), Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC), Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) of the Department of Agriculture, and Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) of the Department of Labor—and the academic institutions offering degree programs in statistics.

The primary function of the Statistical Center is to provide professional training in all fields of statistics through its academic programs and non-degree training programs. It offers four academic programs: B.S., Master of Statistics, M.S. and Ph.D. In addition to its regular course offerings for its own majors, the college handles service courses on introductory statistics and other special statistics courses for the undergraduate and graduate programs of other colleges in U.P. Diliman and U.P. Manila.

The non-degree training programs of the college cater to the statistical training needs of professionals from other disciplines employed in positions requiring familiarity with some statistical concepts and techniques. The regular short-term courses offered by the college, which cover widely used statistical techniques, are attended by employees from the government sector, the private sector, academe and non-governmental organizations. The Center also conducts in-house training programs tailored to suit the needs of requesting agencies or corporations. In addition, the Center faculty serve as lecturers or resource persons in training programs conducted by SRTC and the Philippine Statistical Association.

The college undertakes basic and applied research. The latter includes applications of statistical methodology to research concerns of other disciplines in academe and government agencies and corporations, private firms, and nongovernmental organizations. Research concerns of the major government statistical agencies are addressed through both basic and applied research.

The Center provides technical advisory assistance through several modes. It provides free statistical consultancy services to unfunded researches of students, faculty and academic researchers, and even government agencies. Faculty members also serve as consultants to government projects, private firms

and non-governmental organizations. Senior faculty of the college serve as members of NSCB technical advisory committees whose inputs are used by the NSCB in formulating statistical policy and

in implementing the Philippine Statistical Development Programme. The Dean of the Center is an ex-officio member of the SRTC Governing Board.

The Center for Legislative Development (CLD)

Vision

The Center for Legislative Development (CLD) is a nongovernmental, nonpartisan, independent legislative development organization that addresses both the need for institutional capability-building and for broadening civic participation in the legislative process. It envisions a society where there is genuine people's participation in the decision-making process of democratically elected and functioning legislatures. This vision is also geared towards the development of the CLD into a Regional Center for Legislative Development that will provide legislatures, nongovernmental organizations and sectoral groups in both local and regional levels with research, training and information development services that will ensure the passage of responsive, relevant and gender-fair legislation.

Mission

The Center's mission is to promote meaningful, productive interaction between an effective, efficient and dynamic, vibrant civil society in the formulation and implementation of policy decisions. This mission will be attained by providing the public with sufficient information on developments in the legislature and skills on legislative advocacy.

Objectives

The Center is guided by three objectives: 1) to enhance the capability of the legislature to service the people through the enactment of responsive and gender-fair laws; 2) to promote effective people's participation in the formulation and implementation of laws; and 3) to strengthen linkages between governmental and nongovernmental legislative support service organizations.

Programs

To meet these objectives, the Center provides research and training services to legislatures at the local, national, and regional levels; nongovernmental organizations; and the public through its four strategic programs—Women in Politics, Civic Participation, Local Governance, and Institutional Capability Building.

Women in Politics facilitates women's full and equal, informed and active participation in the decision-making process as advocates and/or holders of formal positions of political power and authority at all levels of government by providing research, training, and information development services.

Civic Participation involves empowering people's organizations, nongovernmental organizations, sectoral and cause-oriented groups to input substantively and meaningfully in the formulation of public policies through legislative advocacy seminars and information research and analysis.

Local Governance assists in the capability building of provincial and municipal assemblies through skills-building seminars to develop organizational, human and material resources for institutional efficiency and effectiveness.

Institutional Capability Building upgrades and enhances the institutional efficiency and competence of local and foreign legislatures to produce quality legislation. A major component of this program is the annual two-week intensive course, the Asia-Pacific Program in Legislative Development. The program strives to assist democratizing societies meet the challenge of making the legislature responsive and the civil society active in making quality and meaningful laws.

Organizational History

The Center had its beginning as an outreach program in the Political Science Department of De La Salle University. It was established in March 1988 as a nonpartisan, independent, nongovernmental legislative support structure called the Congressional Research and Training Service. The Center's initial activities then consisted of skills building seminars aimed at developing or enhancing the legislative skills of the newly-recruited staff of the Philippine Congress. Its thrust of building the institutional capability of Congress is perhaps clearly illustrated by the fact that at the first year of operation, the Center has serviced over 600 legislative staffers from the offices of 85 representatives and 15 senators through 24 seminar workshops. This performance meant holding an average of two seminars a month on bill drafting, social research methods, technical writing, and the dynamics of the legislative process.

On its second year, it became clearer to the Center that becoming a legislative support structure not only entails helping the staff of Congress become effective in their work, but more so, it involves assisting sectoral organizations and other cause-oriented groups such as women, peasants, fisherfolk, and labor influence the formulation of public policies that may affect their interests. Thus, was born the Center's two-component framework for legislative development: institutional capability-building and broadening civic participation in the legislative process.

The Center's strategy of broadening civic participation in the formulation of policies resulted in the holding of several training seminars on legislative organization, processes, dynamics, and advocacy techniques. The seminars were complemented by the regular publication of information packets and issue briefs on major policy issues—women, environment, economic reform, social justice and human rights, and local governance.

In 1990, the Center became independent of De La Salle University and began to institutionalize its training and research programs. The Center now has integrated capability-building programs and regular quarterly and monthly publications monitoring the

quality and relevance of bills and laws enacted by Congress.

The following year, in line with its thrust to institutionalize programs that ensure genuine civic participation in decision-making, the Center launched Women in Politics Program (WIP). WIP seeks to promote women's full, equal, and informed participation in the formulation of policies that affect their daily lives. An important component of this program involves the monitoring of women's issues and the sharing of advocacy skills.

The Center believes that its strategies will be effective if implemented with the assistance of local partners, hence the need to work cooperatively with locally-based governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Cooperation with local partners begins in the planning phase of a project, e.g., assessment of training needs, and continues through the monitoring and evaluation phase. In conducting seminars for local government officials, for example, the Center works with the Department of Interior and Local Government; for grassroots women, it seeks the help of women's organizations based in the project areas and who share the Center's goals and objectives for the project to be implemented. Aside from individual grassroots organizations, the Center also works with various networks in planning and implementing projects such as SIBOL or *Sama-samang Inisyattiba ng Kababaihan sa Pagbabago ng Batas at Lipunan*, a feminist advocacy formation composed of eleven women's organizations.

Board of Directors and Officers

Members of the CLD Board of Directors represent the following sectors: legislature, the executive branch, media, and nongovernmental organizations. They are Socorro Reyes, President; Alex Brillantes, Corazon dela Paz, Edicio dela Torre, Amando Doronilla, Loren Legarda-Leviste, Leonor Ines Luciano, Gizela Gonzalez-Montinola, Romulo Neri, and Manuel Roxas.

The Center's officers are: Dr. Socorro L. Reyes, Executive Director; Sheila Espine, Deputy Executive Director; and Rosalyn Galarse, Administrative and Finance Officer.

Breaking Disciplinary Boundaries:

Pambansang Samahan sa Sikolohiyang Pilipino (PSSP)

Proserpina Domingo Tapales

President, PSSP

In her paper in the Commemorative Volume on the 82nd anniversary of the University of the Philippines, Rogelia Pe-Pua wrote that *Sikolohiyang Pilipino* (Filipino Psychology) is "UP's unique contribution to world psychology because it is not just the field of psychology that has been enriched by this innovation". For indeed, *Sikolohiyang Pilipino* has enriched other social science disciplines like anthropology, sociology, linguistics, history, and philosophy. It has also drawn from disciplines in the humanities such as languages, literature, and the arts. It has enhanced the use of the Filipino language, and has contributed to an even deeper understanding of Philippine culture.

This interdisciplinary mix of *Sikolohiyang Pilipino* is reflected in the membership of the organization, where non-psychology majors are as active as the psychologists. The current President, as a few others before her, is in fact not a psychologist but has Philippine studies and public administration specializations.

In the past 21 years PSSP has carried on a tradition begun by its founder, the late Virgilio G. Enriquez, Emeritus Professor of Psychology of the University of the Philippines. Returning with a doctorate in psychology from Northwestern University in 1971, Dr. Enriquez pioneered in the development of indigenous Philippine psychology as a theory and framework of analysis. He founded the Philippine Psychology Research and Training House (PPRTH) which served as catalyst of ideas and research on different aspects of Filipino psychology and culture. The lively discussions and painstaking research led to significant publications and later, to the organization of *Pambansang Samahan sa Sikolohiyang Pilipino* (PSSP) in 1974.

PSSP conducts a national conference every year on selected topics on indigenous psychology and culture. It has conducted conferences on such topics as ethnicity, indigenous religions, deviant behavior, corruption, male/female sexuality, Muslim-Christian unity, and concepts of Filipino leadership. Its conferences have been held in Metro Manila; Marawi City; Legaspi City; Batac, Ilocos Norte; Iloilo City; and Mt. Banahaw. Each conference is hosted by a member-school.

PSSP held its first international conference in 1994 to celebrate 20 years of its existence. The topic was "Indigenous Psychology and Culture" and attracted participants and paper writers from international chapters such as Hawaii and San Francisco and featured speakers from India and Northwestern University.

The joyous celebration of the twentieth anniversary of PSSP, however, had a sad note in that its founder, Dr. Enriquez, did not live to see his dream of holding an international conference. He died in August 1994, a few months before the conference held in December that year.

Nonetheless, PSSP has continued Enriquez' work. It held another conference in November 30, 1995 on Filipino political and administrative psychology. For 1996, PSSP will hold its conference on nationalism.

The conference on nationalism will once again emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of the *Pambansang Samahan sa Sikolohiyang Pilipino*, as it will delve on the psychological and cultural aspects of Philippine heroism in the last century.

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NEW ACQUISITIONS

Filipiniana

Torres, Amaryllis T. (Ed.) 1995
The Filipino woman in focus: a book of readings. 2nd ed. Quezon City: UP Office of Research Coordination. 341 pp.

An anthology of studies on the Filipina from the latter part of the 19th century to the present. Describes images of the Filipina in the different significant periods of this century.



Medalla, Erlinda M., et.al. 1995
Catching up with Asia's tigers: Philippine trade and industrial policy, Vols. I & II. Makati: Philippine Institute for Development Studies. 380 and 485 pp.

Vol. I reviews the effects of trade policies and critically analyzes the Philippine trade environment. Volume II presents in detail the impact of trade policy reforms on the performance, competitiveness and structure of certain industries.



Benagen, Ponciano L. and Maria Luisa Lacas-Fernan (eds.) 1996
Consulting the spirits, working with nature, sharing with others: indigenous resource management in the Philippines. 199 pp.

A collection of papers presented at the "National Workshop Conference of the National Research Team on Biodiversity and Resource Management Practices of Indigenous Peoples" held in 1993 at Quezon City.

Caballero, Evelyn J. 1996
Gold from the Gods: traditional small-scale miners in the Philippines. Quezon City: Giraffe Books. 263 pp.

Outlines the history of gold and its spread through time in this country, underlining not only its economic but more so its sociological significance.



Reyes, Judith (ed.) 1996
Philippine issues and perspectives: the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Quezon City: Philippine Peasant Institute. 175 pp.

A collection of essays focusing on the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT-UR) and its effects on various sectors of Philippine agriculture.

Quisumbing, Lourdes R. and Felice R. Sta. Maria. 1996
Values education through history: peace and tolerance. Pasay City: UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines. 334 pp.

Focuses on the need for values education centered on tolerance, education being the heart of any strategy for peace-building.



Lacion, Conrado M. 1995
Fast facts about Philippine provinces. Manila: Tahuanan Books. 176 pp.

An in-depth Philippine geographical book which provides a profile of each province, including provincial maps.



Bantista, Ma. Lourdes S. (ed.) 1996
Readings in Philippine socio-linguistics. 2nd ed. Manila: De La Salle University Press. 343 pp.

A compilation of studies on language in the Philippine social context.

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Background. Set up in 1993, the ASEAN Inter-University Seminar series aims to promote common pursuits in exploring social issues in the ASEAN countries. This series provides a platform for communication and contact between scholars to facilitate the founding of collaborative research works among scholars and to enhance mutual understanding and encourage contributions to the enrichment of social scientific knowledge of the region.

The Seminars are held in a different Asean country each time to enable participants to experience the richness of the region. Efforts are also made to bring attention to the peripheral regions of the member countries by holding these seminars outside the capital cities. The Seminars are organized in the spirit of autonomous development and regional cooperation so that social science can flourish along with and support the advancement of the region.

Objectives

- to encourage the development of ASEAN-based scholarship on social issues, a necessary condition for empowerment
- to generate valuable analysis of the critical social, economic and political trends within the ASEAN region
- to create unparalleled opportunities to meet and to network, with a view to establishing future collaborative ventures and solidarity in the interest of justice and equity
- to provide a forum for intellectuals from ASEAN-based universities, government officials as well as nongovernment decision makers and others concerned with the multi-faceted issues in development in the region.

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This conference is open to:

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- Private-sector executives and members of NGOs
- Other interested persons.
- Papers may be presented in English or Bahasa Indonesia/Malaysia but all abstracts should be in English.

Papers and Abstracts

For papers to be considered, an abstract of less than 250 words should be sent to the seminar secretariat by 15 February 1997. Completed papers should reach the secretariat by 15 April 1997. They should be submitted in the form of one hard copy together with a diskette specifying the software used. Notification of acceptance of paper will be sent on receipt of the abstract. Papers should be camera-ready and should not exceed 20 pages, single spaced on A4 size paper. Selected papers from this seminar may be included in a future publication.

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Philippine Sociological Review, Vol. 42, 1994 (Special Issue on the Family)

Philippine Sociological Review, Vol. 41, 1993 (Special Issue on Nongovernment Organizations)

Philippine Sociological Review, Vol. 40, 1992

Philippine Political Science Journal, Nos. 37 and 38, 1993-1994

Philippine Political Science Journal, Nos. 33 and 36, 1991-1992

Philippine Population Journal, Vol. 6, Nos. 1-4, January-December 1990

Philippine Journal of Linguistics, Vol. 24, No. 1, June 1993 (Current Research in the Philippines)

Philippine Journal of Linguistics, Vol. 24, No. 2, December 1993

Books

Cooperation and Conflict in Global Society, Carmencita T. Aguilar, ed.

(Papers and proceedings of the XII General Conference, International Federation of Social Science Organizations, October 3-5, 1995)

Gold from the Gods: traditional small-scale miners in the Philippines, Evelyn J. Caballero

The Filipino woman in focus: a book of readings, Amarylís T. Torres (ed.)

Readings in Philippine sociolinguistics, Ma. Lourdes S. Bautista, (ed.)

Empowerment and Accountability for Sustainable Development: Towards Theory Building in the Social Sciences

(Papers and Proceedings of the 3rd National Social Science Congress, Philippine Social Science Center, December 9-10, 1993)

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