

FROM THE EDITORS

Population growth is an international fact and has assumed great significance in shaping the world. Recent manifestations of the processes involved in population change particularly in the developing countries have challenged the traditional concept of population growth as stimulus for development. This came about with the realization that a continuing rapid population growth on an ever larger base is likely to mean a lower quality of life for millions of people. Consequently, population trends as they influence and are influenced by development factors have become the focal point of a dilemma that invokes public action.

These manifestations of the interaction between population and development have long been felt in the Philippines and have been given recognition through a population program. The short experience of the country in the management of population attests to the importance of the integration of policies and programs with scientific knowledge serving as a guide and stimulus. While the search for more appropriate and effective economic, social, and political instruments to deal with population change is still in an infancy stage, recent shifts in program thrusts and operational strategies have been made to respond to data and knowledge borne out of relevant researches. This clearly suggests that rigorous information and competence seem the only way open toward a better understanding of the factors and relationships that determine population and socio-economic changes.

It is within this context of information need that the *Philippine Population Journal* takes its place and finds its meaning. The *Journal* seeks to provide a regular forum for an examination of the knowledge base that will be of technical and practical value toward an informed choice among alternatives both at the individual and policy levels insofar as population planning decisions are concerned. A more comprehensive approach will be attempted toward this goal by broadening the focus of population studies in the Philippines in three ways: (1) to recognize the important role played by each of the three processes of population change, namely: fertility, mortality, and migration; (2) to consider the implications of such processes on policies and programs and vice versa; and (3) to give due recognition to the valuable contributions of various disciplines to a better understanding of the population processes. The cross-fertilization of the disciplines in the analysis of population and population-related variables by competent scholars, we believe, will hasten the solution of innumerable problems involved in the phenomenon of population change.

Indeed, a deeper understanding of today's problems will make it possible to plan more effectively toward a future population level that is more con-

ducive to the development and welfare of the country.

This issue, which we have intended as a special edition, carries articles relating to the state of the art of the Philippine population program. We hope this shall fittingly launch the *Philippine Population Journal*.

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