

FOREWORD

The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), with the collaboration of the College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University, in representation of the Asian MetaCentre, organized a 2002 Regional Population Conference on the theme, "Southeast Asia's Population in a Changing Asian Context". Held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 10-13 June 2002, the conference served as a forum to discuss the rapidly changing population dynamics in Southeast Asia and to consider key operational and policy issues relevant to population and development themes. The conference was attended by 350 population and development experts, policy makers, programme managers and researchers from some 40 countries, most of whom were from Asia. This was in sharp contrast to the first Asian Regional Conference organized by the IUSSP held in Sydney, Australia in 1967, the majority of whose participants were from the developed countries.

Her Royal Highness, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, graciously presided over the Opening Ceremony and stayed for the first Plenary Session featuring a debate on, "Should Borders within Asia be Opened?". The Scientific Programme consisted of 124 contributed papers and 39 posters presented during 30 parallel sessions under the broad topics of fertility, mortality and health, migration, population dynamics and development, family and nuptiality and others. A second plenary session debated the topic, "Is Globalization Adversely Affecting Population and Poverty?" In addition, a special session on the "Implementation of The International Plan of Action of the Second World Assembly on Aging for Countries in Asia" was organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

In view of the International Organizing Committee's decision to publish only the abstracts of the 2002 Regional Population Conference papers, the Philippine Population Association decided to dedicate a special issue of the **Philippine Population Review** for the papers contributed to the Bangkok Conference on themes and issues on the Philippines. The seven papers comprising this issue demonstrate the variety in scope and treatment of the topics covered by the authors. Truly, the decision to hold a Population Conference on Southeast Asia proved that the region's demographers and population experts had come of age!

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