

RESOLUTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI COUNCIL

**Resolution No.2003-1
June 20, 2003**

CALLING ON THE UPAA MEMBERSHIP TO ADOPT A RIGHTS-BASED FOOD AND NUTRITION PERSPECTIVE OF FILIPINO HUMAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND ACCORDINGLY, TO PURSUE STRATEGIC POLICY FORMULATION AND ACTIONS CONSISTENT THEREWITH, IN ALL AREAS OF THEIR INSTITUTIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL INVOLVEMENTS.

Whereas, the UP Alumni Council has concerned itself with UP programs on economic development, science and technology, and agriculture, and even beyond, such as moral and spiritual values;

Whereas, the UP Alumni Council has recognized a basic ingredient of national development - the population's state of nutrition, and the dire consequences of malnutrition and undernutrition;

Whereas, the Philippine experience confirms that it shares with other developing countries, a dismal record of intrauterine growth retardation, low birth weight and stunted growth due to iron and vitamin deficiency, hindering the attainment of the child's maximum potential for physical and intellectual growth;

Whereas, the situation has reached serious global proportions such that the UN Commission on Human Rights adopted Comment 12 on the Right to Adequate Food based on the UN Economic and Social Council's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (May 1999) concept of the right to adequate, food as a human right;

Whereas, the right to food cannot be equated with a minimum package of calories, proteins and other specific nutrients but with the condition where every citizen has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or to the means for its procurement, and with the capacity to mitigate or alleviate hunger with food in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of the individual, free from adverse substances and acceptable within a given culture;

Whereas, this internationally-recognized right to food implies that government must not take measures or allow others to deny access to food by vulnerable populations, or to disregard rights to ancestral lands of indigenous peoples, or to substantially diminish the opportunity of the “small people” to exploit and derive their rightful share in the country’s natural resources;

Whereas, it is the earnest concern of the UP Alumni Council that government policy and action shall not be the obstacle to the realization of the objectives of Filipino human and economic development;

Now, therefore, we, the members of the UP Alumni Council, strongly urge all members of the UP Alumni Association, as follows:

1. to adopt and fully support the UNCHR and UNESCO rights-based food and nutrition perspective in the formulation and implementation of Philippine human and economic development plans;
2. to exercise moral and political persuasion, wherever possible, in all institutions, agencies, organizations, etc., whether public and private, towards the acceptance of this rights-based perspective as a generally accepted principle of national and international law;
3. to assist the University leadership in convincing legislators to support, and adopt this rights-based perspective on adequate food and nutrition as a national policy, for implementation by government executive agencies, particularly the Department of Budget and Management;
4. to incorporate in UP course syllabi, whenever appropriate, the notion of a rights-based food and nutrition perspective as described above;
5. to promote and support the holding of student seminars, conferences and other fora in UP on the rights-based perspective on adequate food and nutrition, and on the adverse effects which would result if access to food is not respected as a human right; and
6. to encourage the UP alumni in media to inform the public of these issues and considerations, and to sustain public interest therein.

Adopted this 20th day of June, 2003 in Diliman, Quezon City.
UP Alumni Council

As submitted by the UP Alumni Council Resolutions Committee 2003

Chairman: Dr. Remedios C. Balbin

Pres., UP Alumni Association Asian Center

Members: Dr. Jose Dalisay, Jr.

Ms. Rebecca F. Maronilla

Mrs. Solina R. Iglesias

Prof. Carmelita C. Ramirez

Dr. Corazon M. Raymundo

**UP ALUMNI COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. 2003-2**

CALLING ON THE UPAА MEMBERSHIP TO INITIATE, HELP FORMULATE
AND PROMOTE A UNIFIED PHILIPPINE FERTILITY AND POPULATION
GROWTH POLICY

Whereas, the Philippine Government from the Marcos years to the present administration has adopted inconsistent population policies which have not adequately addressed the nature and magnitude of problems brought about by the rapid growth and the resulting configuration of the population;

Whereas, Government has not enforced a small family norm policy despite a negative relationship among population, development and environment which limits the Filipino's global competitiveness;

Whereas, "the single most important factor influencing Philippine population policymaking since its formulation in 1969 - and which partly explains its ever shifting focus is the persistent and consistent opposition of the Catholic Church hierarchy to the government population policy of reducing population growth as well as its promotion of artificial family planning methods";

Whereas, the members of the UP Alumni Association undeniably hold positions of power and/or influence in the executive and legislative departments of government, where they can shape and direct policy.

Now, therefore, we, the members of the UP Alumni Council strongly urge all the members of the UP Alumni Association, as follows:

1. to take a proactive stance in all areas of their professional involvement in the definition and formulation of a unified Philippine fertility and population growth policy, taking into consideration their own family size;
2. to conduct a sustained information campaign among the Filipino public about the impact of rapid population growth on our future competitiveness in the global context;
3. to work with and support the advocacy efforts of the UP Population Institute, School of Economics and Center for Women's Studies; and policy formulation efforts of the Commission on Population, and other agencies in the field of population and development;
4. to provide periodically, necessary population and related data to our legislative and executive departments for their appropriate utilization and in policy formulation and implementation.

Adopted this 20th day of June, 2003 in Diliman, Quezon City.

UP Alumni Council

Submitted by the UP Alumni Council Resolutions Committee 2003

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