

EDITORS' NOTES

The Philippine Population Association takes pride in publishing this technical companion¹ to the second State of the Philippine Population Report (SPPR II) entitled *Pinoy Youth: Making Choices, Building Voices* (November 2003) of the Population Commission.

This volume aims to further the discussion on youth sexuality and reproductive health within the context of a broad youth development framework. Most of the articles form a compendium of overview materials on the subject matter to serve the increasing need for information in improving our understanding the adolescents as building blocks for effectively dealing with their present day concerns. The broad strokes of SPPR II on youth issues find more in-depth conceptualization and analysis in this volume.

Understanding the youth and their concerns as a theme in scientific discourse is important in at least two ways. First, the gaps in information about the Filipino youth will be identified and more research can generate new knowledge or even challenge existing ones. Second, the knowledge generated from research will be helpful not only in the substance or components of youth programs but also in the methods or principles that guide the design of these programs. We believe that time has come when practical decisions should be evidence-based on one hand and research findings must find their ways in policies and programs on the other hand.

We take a combined life cycle and ecological approach in the framework for youth development used in the various articles. While psychosocial and sexual development as facet of youth development is part of a natural process, it occurs in a continuum and is not a happenstance matter. It needs to be sustained positively and helped to grow. A clearer understanding of the process of development and the factors that influence that development is therefore important. Together, the articles show that in the process, value should be placed on history, continuity, predictability, tradition or culture, gender and milieu. All these need to be captured in more systematic fashion for a better understanding of the youth.

We sincerely hope that this volume makes a contribution that will further scientific discourse as well as point to important substance and methods for practical and effective programs for the Filipino youth.

The Editors

¹ In particular, the papers of Ogena, Costello, Raymundo and Miralao are original background papers used to write the SPPR II. This volume included two additional related papers, that of Lee, et. al. and Kabamalan.