

Letter from the Editors

The absence of a single theme for the articles in this issue illustrates the wide range of areas of concern and perspectives of population and population-related researches that are relevant to population policy-making and program-planning. These are precisely the aspects of the researches that the *Philippine Population Journal* would like to provide a forum for. In this regard, two types of researches insofar as information is concerned become apparent – those that update critical knowledge and those that take initiatives in breaking new grounds. Timely discovery of an emerging phenomenon is always useful as an early warning signal for new developments in an area of concern. Both types of information are necessary to (1) provide sanctions for strengthening certain aspects of a program, and (2) suggest new program directions.

Our featured articles represent this range of policy-relevant types of information in addition to bringing to attention other demographic factors that impinge on development efforts in the country, either on account of their own direct influences or through their effect on other demographic variables like fertility. In this issue we highlight factors other than fertility, i.e., migration, nuptiality and other household formation events, and population education.

A special feature is the Pante paper documenting the experiences of the country in undertaking steps to integrate the population dimension in development planning at the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). Population and development integration in the Philippines takes a three-pronged approach consisting of institution-building, training and research. One of the identified critical gaps in the operationalization of the integration is the lack of qualitative and quantitative information on population-development interrelationships. Coincidentally, most of the articles in this issue are responding to this call for more data and in specifying further the population and development link.

Findley and De Jong highlight the influence of past intervention programs as indexed by family- and community-level variables on further migration from Ilocos Norte province. In planning for the spatial configuration of an area, the authors suggest taking separate note of community-level characteristics from family/individual characteristics for the former can actually modify the latter as predisposing factors of migration. Arnold and Abad examine the same data set and go further to include international migration. Their aim is to provide an empirical test to the possibility of a theoretical linkage between internal and international migration. The conclusions derived in the paper can be important contributions to the broadening of the theory of migration to address both types of movements in a single theory.

Following the argument of Findley and De Jong regarding the importance of the demographic structure of the family, de Guzman demonstrates some alterations in the structural characteristics of Filipino households over time. In his analysis of the determinants of family formation, he focuses on nuptiality as a major force that dictates the initial formation of families and in so doing attests to the two-way linkage between population and development factors inasmuch as marriage as an individual behavior is a response to the various development forces surrounding him.

Mercado's paper, while not directly addressing population and development interactions, shows the proximity of concerns between education and the population program as intervention measures. With the Commission on Population's expansion of its efforts to promote value inculcation regarding small family size among the school children, the role of the formal school system assumes increasing significance. Mercado evaluates the various aspects of the population education program in the secondary schools and suggests ways of improving on the current approach.

The perspectives taken by the present papers suggest the multi-disciplinary nature of the study of population. As the *Journal* takes its place in the world of scholarly publications, it will be known to feature multi-disciplinary articles in its pages. Through this approach, we will be able to capture the wide-ranging implications of population issues.