

## NEWS REPORT EXPERTS' MEETING

RODOLFO A. BULATAO

Trends in population studies in the Philippines and priorities for future population research were the subject of a three-day meeting of fifty social scientists last October. Twenty-four papers on topics ranging from demographic measurement to population and the environment were discussed at the meeting, which was labelled an Experts' Meeting on Philippine Population Research. The papers covered the range of interests and disciplines involved in local research on population.

The specific objectives for the meeting were: (1) to attempt to define priorities for future social science research in population in the Philippines; (2) to exchange information on the current status and latest findings of ongoing research projects on the Philippine population; (3) to give each researcher a better picture of how his work can fit into the total research effort; (4) to create greater interest among social scientists in population as a field of study; (5) to highlight the implications of particular research projects for national population policies and program; and (6) to facilitate exchange between researchers and policy planners with a view to the proper and effective utilization of research findings.

The meeting was organized by the Department of Sociology, University of the Philippines, with the assistance of the Philippine Social Science Council. It was held at the Population Center Foundation (PCF) Building on October 10-12, 1974. Eight sessions followed by workshops were scheduled. A plenary session was held to recapitulate the discussions and to attempt to arrive at research priorities in population.

Setting the tone for the eight sessions, PCF President (and concurrently Secretary of Social Welfare) Estefania Aldaba-Lim urged the participants to get involved in population research projects and to work actively towards a more effective population program.

In the first session on Population in Development Vicente B. Paqueo and Peter C. Smith discussed economic-demographic models and their theoretical and empirical limitations. They suggested that cross-disciplinary collaboration would enrich available models and make them more realistic. While they were concerned mainly with macroeconomic models, Alejandro B. Herrin discussed microeconomic aspects, and the significance of regional comparisons of the effects of social change on individual fertility behavior.

A session on Culture and Fertility, held simultaneously with the first session, included two papers: a report on a survey of communication between spouses, the roles of husband and wife in decision making, mutual perceptions between spouses, and couples' attitudes as they affect family planning, presented by Benjamin V. Lozare; and an analysis of psychological, social, and economic satisfactions and costs connected with having children by Rodolfo A. Bulatao.

Several speakers who discussed Demographic Measurement and its Implications were Francis C. Madigan, Tito Mijares, Trinidad S. Osteria and Jane C. Baltazar, Wilhelm Flieger, and Mercedes B. Concepcion. Madigan provided a general review of local demographic studies, concluding that better fertility data should be first priority; Mijares discussed the dual-registra-

tion system for providing checks on demographic data quality. Osteria and Baltazar examined mortality trends over the last decade, and observed that chronic infectious diseases are still a major cause of death at younger ages. Flieger analyzed and criticized mortality data, and stressed its meagerness when one attempts to make regional or provincial comparisons or to assess historical trends. Concepcion reviewed the use of surveys for fertility measurement, and argued that more focused investigations and panel studies would provide more significant research advances in the future.

In the session on Population Communication and Education, Gloria D. Feliciano reviewed the approaches used by various mass media in communicating family planning to different Philippine publics. She noted the relative paucity of studies on personal channels of communication, and proposed a study on the most effective combination of personal and interpersonal channels. Rose Alberto discussed research on population education, focussing on the school curriculum and on the population attitudes of school children, parents, and teachers.

On the second day of the meeting, four papers were presented in a session on Population Distribution. Ernesto M. Pernia analyzed urbanization in the Philippines from historical and comparative perspectives, showing that urbanization is comparatively slow and imbalanced, concentrating mostly in Metropolitan Manila. Benjamin V. Cariño suggested that strategies for dealing with internal migration should be integrated, instead of being splintered into separate programs dealing with housing, employment, and other factors. Maria Elena Lopez and Mary R. Hollnsteiner outlined the problems faced by rural migrants when they move to Manila and recommended ways of aiding them. Robert A. Hackenberg used data from Davao City to suggest that income must be more equitably distributed before fertility decline can be expected.

In the session on Approaches to Family Planning, James F. Phillips discussed the use of paramedics in Camarines Norte and Camarines

Sur, identifying problems with redundant services but noting that the effectiveness of family planning clinics did improve. Florentino S. Solon argued for integrating community organizational activities including family planning services. He favored making motivators for family planning knowledgeable in the fields of nutrition, sanitation, and horticulture, and then using activities in these areas as leverage for introducing family planning. Other resource persons to mobilize are the "hilot," discussed by Jerome R. Bailen, and the "katiwala," discussed by Beverly Heckart Hackenberg.

Three papers dealt with Population and the Environment. Telesforo W. Luna, Jr. discussed both agricultural and urban systems in relation to population pressure. The interaction of modern agricultural technology with the physical environment and the spatial shape of the city must be studied, he said, from multidisciplinary perspectives. Juan R. Francisco covered the ecosystems of the Tasaday and the Mandaya, pointing out forces of change operating in both situations. Serafin D. Talisayon presented a graphical model for ecosystems analysis, with human population at the center.

The final session, on Program Management and Population Policy, saw a presentation of 56 suggestions from evaluation research of population programs by Cesar M. Mercado and Amelia J. Gloria. The suggestions covered clinic services, personnel training, and information-education-communication campaigns, as well as research. Management research was covered by Eduardo L. Robert, both in the sense of actual operation and the evaluation of program impact. Romeo Balandra briefly covered the Model City project in Cagayan de Oro, and Irene C. Cortes discussed legal research on public population policy.

A list of several dozen desirable research projects in population was drawn up at the plenary session. Commission on Population Executive Director Rafael Esmundo closed the meeting by noting the gap that still existed between research ideas and the problems of the

population program and asked for more immediately relevant research.

The meeting was supported by the Popula-

tion Center Foundation as one of its first projects. Proceedings will eventually be available through the Foundation.

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