

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER

2007-2008

annual report



Annual Report

2007-2008



**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER
DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-MANILA**

Copyright © 2009

Social Development Research Center
De La Salle University-Manila

Editor/Writer: Connie Jan Maraan
Creative Design/Layout: Maria Catherine Dacillo-Domingo

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE i

RESEARCH AGENDA ii

RESEARCH INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND PUBLICATIONS I

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Poverty and Social Protection/Social Inclusion

Seeds of Change, 30/15

Being Poor, Becoming Non-Poor: Perspectives, Evidence and Insights 4

Insights into Understanding Displaced Populations: Training Local Actors to the Reintegration of Displaced Persons 6

Health Outcomes and Policy/Family Health/Population

Study on the Impact of Decentralization on the Availability and Access to Medicines in the Philippines (Case Studies from NCR, Benguet, Iloilo and Davao) 9

Eco-bio-social Factors of Vector Density: Developing an Effective Approach to Dengue Control in the Philippines 11

Rural and Urban Development/Sustainable Development and Social Change

Negotiating Land Rights and Natural Resource Regulations for Local People: The Role and Effectiveness of Secondary Farmer and Community Organizations in Upland Watersheds of Southeast Asia 16

Agroforestry and Sustainable Vegetable Production in SEA Watersheds 18

Process Documentation of the 3D Mapping of the Teduray-Lambangian-Dulaan Manobo Ancestral Domain Claim in Sitio Kifeng-feng, South Upi, Maguindanao 21

Linking Knowledge to Policy in Transboundary Water Governance: A Focus on Research-Based Knowledge and the Policy Process 22

Contents

Human, Social and Cultural Capital Formation

Pundasyon Hanunuo Mangyan School Project 27

Institutional Reforms/Local Government Development

Complementing DILG Assessment of MDG Localization Efforts: Cross Checking LGU Data and Capacity Building on Data Analysis and Utilization 29

SDRC Assisted Project for CLA

Paths to Social Integration and Participation for the Youth in the Philippines and Asia 31

ASEAN Literatures/BNSCWC English Translation Program 33

DIRECTOR AND FELLOWS ACTIVITIES 34

VISITING RESEARCHERS 39

RESEARCH FELLOWS, ASSOCIATES AND RESOURCE PERSONS 43

SDRC DIRECTOR AND CORE STAFF 44

PROJECT RESEARCH STAFF 45

PUNDASYON HANUNUO MANGYAN SCHOOL STAFF AND TEACHERS 46

Director's Message

The SDRC Annual Report 2007-2008 reflects the Center's evolution and vitality through the past 29 years in the research enterprise. Continuing its commitment to participate in national development issues and imperatives in the areas of poverty, health, rural and urban development, institutional reforms, and human and cultural capital formation, the Center has deliberately moved to increase its boundary-spanning activities through research partnership/collaboration and networking with other research institutes inside and outside of Asia.

The ongoing researches about displaced populations in four countries, eco-bio-social factors of dengue control in six countries, agroforestry and sustainable vegetable production in four countries, transboundary water governance in the Mekong Region involving research fellows within the said Region and Southeast Asia has brought SDRC more prominently into the international research arena. It is, thus, with eagerness that we await the completion of these studies, and exchange and share information and needed resources. It is hoped that these landmark researches will unravel for the Center a "new" research agenda that is relevant to our development tasks and, at the same time, contributes to understanding common emerging global concerns.

As SDRC continues to participate in the increasing challenge for quality research, special acknowledgement goes to the hardworking research fellows, associates, assistants and staff who have been the lifeblood of the Center through almost three decades of growth. It is with the same profound gratitude that I acknowledge our numerous benefactors whose trust, confidence, and generosity have sustained the Center. We hope to enjoin you as SDRC looks forward to more years of persevering for a legacy that we can all be proud of.



JESUSA M. MARCO, Ph.D.
Director

Research Agenda

Health Outcomes and Policy/Family Health/Population

* Migration * population dynamics * reproductive health * HIV/AIDS * gender and sexuality * social-cultural dimensions of health and tropical diseases * quality of care and quality assurance system * health systems development * mental health * healthy lifestyles * adolescents' health *

Institutional Reforms/Local Government Development

* institutional strengthening * devolution and decentralization * electoral participation * community empowerment and participation * volunteerism and voluntary organizations * civil society and non-government organizations *

Rural and Urban Development/Sustainable Development and Social Change

* rural and urban poverty * sustainable development and rural livelihoods * upland development and management * environment * agro and social forestry * peoples' responses to development * resettlement *

Human, Social and Cultural Capital Formation

* education * employment and labor force participation * family * values and norms * self-efficacy * knowledge and intellectual capital formation * risk and resiliency factors in human development *

Social Protection/Social Inclusion/Social Exclusion/Social Policy

* children's rights and well-being * services for indigenous people/communities * programs for displaced workers * safety nets * elderly and children/adolescents under difficult circumstances *

Capacity Building/Training

* community and social intervention * quality management and quality of care assessment in health care * leadership and competencies development * participatory approaches * evaluation research * program management and monitoring * area-based planning * communication and counseling skills * basic research methodologies * statistical methods for social science *

RESEARCH INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND PUBLICATIONS

A forum on “Researching and Theorizing Poverty” was sponsored by the Center on November 21, 2007 at the Yuchengco Seminar Room. In her presentation during the forum, Dr. Anna Marie Karaos, Executive Director of the John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues, provided a timeline of poverty studies and concepts in the Philippines and the analytical framework on poverty that resulted at her organization. She pointed out several cross-cutting issues and lessons relevant to poverty, which included a shift from an asset-based to a capacity-based concept of poverty; the importance of action taken to be information-based; advocacy as being both claim-making and problem-solving; a shift from power and conflict to social capital and engagement; balancing sectoral and public good; and determining the relevance of politics and political change. Research Fellow and Behavioral Sciences faculty member Dr. Exaltacion E. Lamberte, on the other hand, focused on the type of poverty researches that have been done at SDRC over the past two decades. She divided these into three: those on rural poverty, which involve upland communities,



indigenous communities, lowland areas, and model building and implementation; those on urban poverty, which cover the urban poor and high risk communities, model building in terms of cooperative management, models of service delivery, micro-finance and its outcomes, and women empowerment;

and those conducted at the national level, which establish non-income indicators and measures of living standards, non-monetary indicators and measures for tracking and monitoring poverty levels among LGUs, and look into local governance and accountability in health.

Meanwhile, a dissemination forum entitled “Projects in Progress” was sponsored by the Center on March 5, 2008 at the Ariston Estrada Seminar Room. Marking the twenty-ninth year since its establishment at the University, the Center presented three projects involving four areas of interest in its



research agenda, namely upland development and management, displaced populations, and urban health. The presentations made during the forum were by Dr. Ma. Elena Chiong-Javier on “Agroforestry and Sustainable Vegetable Production in Southeast Asian Watersheds: Market and Gender Components of TMPEGS Philippines”; Ms. Alicia B. Manlagnit on “Forced to Flee by Nature: Perceptions and Experiences of Displaced People in a Rural Philippine Municipality”; and Ms. Ysadora F. Mendoza on “Eco-bio-social Factors of Vector Density: Developing an Integrated and Collaborative Approach to Dengue Control in the Philippines.”



In 2007, the Global Forum for Health Research and the World Bank published the results of a study participated in by SDRC entitled “**Mapping of Mental Health Research Capacity in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) in Asia and the Pacific.**” The report provides an account of the current status of mental health research in 114 low- and middle-income countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Mental and

neurological disorders are responsible for 13% of the global burden of disease. In addition, more than half of the 10 leading risk factors that cause one third of premature deaths worldwide have behavioral determinants, such as unsafe sex, and tobacco or alcohol consumption. Despite this evidence, mental health is a neglected and an under-researched area of public health, particularly in LMICs. The findings of the Mapping of Mental Health Research Capacity study highlights the need to review and strengthen the management of mental health research so that it meets the national needs of LMICs as well as contributes to the global fund of knowledge.

The report enables evidence-based decision-making in funding and priority setting in the area of mental health research in LMICs. Members of the Mental Health Research Mapping Project Group were from Brazil, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, and South Asia. SDRC represented the Philippines through Dr. Exaltacion E. Lamberte, principal investigator, and Avelita V. Lapitan and Cecile C. Pascasio, researchers.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Poverty and Social Protection/Social Inclusion

Seeds of Change, 30/15

Being Poor, Becoming Non-Poor: Perspectives, Evidence and Insights

Project Director: Exaltacion E. Lamberte
Research Assistant: Melvin Jabar
Funding Agency: East Asian Development Network (EADN)
Status: Ongoing

From a social science perspective, the book, using evidence gathered from different surveys and case studies, attempts to portray and explain poverty and its dynamics in Philippine cities. It depicts the features and magnitude of poverty, not only in terms of its commonplace measure, income, but also in terms of the non-income dimensions of deprivation. Adopting a multi-dimensional perspective of the concept of poverty, a description of the varying facets of poverty is provided, specifically: (a) income and other monetary measures; (b) health; (c) education; (d) security; and (e) social inclusion. The volume also illustrates how poor people view their life, their concept of poverty, how they characterize the features of poor individuals as well as community, and the



perceived life essentials for enduring and exiting from poverty. Moreover, the material discusses the conditions of selected vulnerable sectors in urban areas, namely the children of families living in the more deprived areas and informal settlers. Questions of interest are: (1) What is the concept of poverty among poor people living in Philippine cities? How do the poor characterize a poor individual, family and a poor community? (2) What factors and processes lead people to slide into poverty? How were others able to rise out of poverty? (3) From a holistic perspective, what are the contemporary characteristic features of poverty in Philippine cities? (4) From the lens of the mass elite and the poor themselves, what are the different groups of poor people in urban areas? What characterizes each of these groups? (5) What structural and institutional barriers of poverty exist? What specific factors contribute to the persistence of poverty among the poorest segment of the urban population? (6) How might Philippine society address the problem of poverty existing in urban areas?



The significant contribution of this material is its attempt to ascertain subject areas not dealt with adequately in previous researches in the country. These areas are: (a) the urban poor people's concept of poverty and the life essentials to endure and exit from poverty; (b) how people move out of

poverty; (c) using both objective and subjective measures, whether or not an improvement occurred in their socio-economic status; (d) social exclusion as a dimension of poverty; and (e) people's responses to government's poverty-related programs and initiatives, and values and views of people regarding availability of chances and opportunities to improve their lives. Aside from utilizing a holistic framework in looking at poverty, the material also demonstrates the use of both quantitative and qualitative techniques of analyzing data, the use of developed measures, as well as indicators for social exclusion within the context of low level of well-being and depressed social as well as economic urban environment.

In addition, together with the discussion on the theoretical underpinnings of the overall research outcome, a re-thinking of the manner of studying poverty-related experiences is introduced. A reformulated over-all strategic framework for confronting poverty is also suggested, together with the mapping of some policies and forward-looking action initiatives and programs.

Insights into Understanding Displaced Populations: Training Local Actors to the Reintegration of Displaced Persons

Project Director : Alicia B. Manlagnit
Resource Person : Jesusa M. Marco
Research Assistants: Kay Katherine Y. Zabala, Kristina Grace de la Cruz
Funding Agency: International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU)
Status : Ongoing

The study aims to explore the realities about internal population displacement caused by different factors. It involves five research institutions in four countries: De La Salle University in Manila; Assumption University in Thailand; University of St. Joseph in Beirut; Shelter Don Bosco in Mumbai, India; and Stella Maris College in Chennai, also in India.

The Philippine component, being undertaken by SDRC, seeks to describe people's perceptions about and experiences during displacement caused by natural disasters, particularly flash floods and mudslides in a rural municipality in Southern Philippines. More specifically, it aims to 1) obtain relevant information about displaced people's perceptions on natural disaster and displacement phenomena, and describe how these perceptions shape their experiences during displacement; 2) determine the pattern of displacement and describe its consequences, with a particular focus on the problems people experience during displacement; 3) look



into the different self-help strategies displaced people use to cope with the problems they encounter; 4) identify structures that assist displaced people and describe the nature and process of assistance; and 5) identify key issues and relevant concerns on the return process. The research is being

RESEARCH PROJECTS

conducted in the municipality of St. Bernard in Southern Leyte where major flash floods occurred in February 2006. During that disaster, a massive mudslide covered one of St. Bernard's barangays. Survivors from that barangay are now in a resettlement village found in Barangay Magbagakay in this town.



This new village is considered a permanent resettlement area and has been chosen as the major site for the research study. However, in order to gain insights about people who are still in a more temporary resettlement situation, those staying in the two major evacuation centers in the municipality who have come from nearby barangays are also being included in the study.

The general perceptions regarding natural disasters and the displacement phenomenon were that the flash floods were God's punishment; God's reminder/a wake up call; God's will; destiny; a test of man's faith and trust in God; the consequence of man's destructive actions; the inevitable effects of heavy rainfall; and for some, it was believed that a bomb was made to explode in the mountains.

Among the perceived needs elicited from the key informants as a result of displacement caused by the disaster were the basics: food, shelter, clothing; more regular sources of income; proof/certification of ownership of the housing units given to them; and financial support for the education of family members.

Health Outcomes and Policy/Family Health/Population

Study on the Impact of Decentralization on the Availability and Access to Medicines in the Philippines (Case Studies from NCR, Benguet, Iloilo and Davao)

Project Director: Jesusa M. Marco
 Investigators : Loyd Brendan P. Norella, Melvin Jabar, Avelita Lapitan
 Funding Agency: World Health Organization
 Status : Completed

This study was conducted from July 2007 to September 2007, supported by a research grant from the World Health Organization. It examined the impact of decentralization on drug access, availability and procurement at selected LGUs in the Philippines using both qualitative and quantitative research tools. With the observed research gap on the subject matter, this study investigated whether or not the localization of health governance has affected the access of drugs and medicines



at the local health units over the years.

This research is valuable as it provides empirical evidence (in both qualitative and quantitative terms) on the impact of the government's decentralization of health services on drug procurement, supply and access at the local levels.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The general aim of the study was to provide documentation on the impact of health service devolution on the procurement systems and the accessibility, availability and affordability of drugs in various LGU units in the Philippines.



Specifically, the study had the following objectives:

- a) To document the impact of decentralization on the access, availability and prices of medicine at the local level;
- b) To review the strengths and weaknesses as well as the relevance and effectiveness of drug procurement systems including RA 9184, and methods of bulk/pool procurements to secure the lowest medicine prices; and
- c) To provide data that can guide the development of policies that would ensure the adherence of local government units to good procurement practices including proper selection, quantification, procurement, delivery and distribution of essential drugs and medicine.

Eco-bio-social Factors of Vector Density: Developing an Effective Approach to Dengue Control in the Philippines

Project Director : Jesusa M. Marco
 Research Associate : Ysadora F. Mendoza
 Research Assistant : Reiza Ayla M. Bañega
 Project Assistant : Ma. Rosario L. Eugenio
 Funding Agency : World Health Organization/TDR
 Status : Ongoing

Funded by the World Health Organization/TDR, this study uses a selective, inter-sectoral approach to dengue vector control aimed at epidemiologically important key containers identified by pupa surveys and applied during critical periods of dengue transmission. Such an approach is intended to result in long-term source reduction and effective dengue control in the Philippines. The questions it seeks



responses to are: What are the eco-biological and social factors affecting dengue vector density in overcrowded, dense areas with unplanned urbanization and rapid population growth and in what way is their effort manifested? How do these factors contribute to the cyclical increase in dengue cases? How can this

information be formulated into a rational strategy for dengue control? Under a devoted system of health services and limited resources, who are the stakeholders for this strategy? What collaboration and linkages must be developed among them? Finally, what are the recommendations for more effective dengue control?



Findings from surveys conducted for the study were revealed as ecological and biological factors, and as social factors. The ecological and biological factors, taken from the Entomological and Pupal Survey, were:

Regarding Water Supply. In the high density clusters, water supply is not adequate. Very few homes in 2 clusters and none in 2 others have piped water supply. Household heads purchase water, supplied either privately or by the city government, from a distributor (water truck). A public faucet is available in one cluster.

Although most of the homes in the low density cluster had piped water supply, the supply was not adequate; most homes had deep wells that supplied water through a motorized pump.



Regarding Pupal/Larval Productivity. It was found that 239 (or 7%) of the more than 2,000 containers in the households were found to have pupa. *Aedes aegypti* was the dominant vector for all clusters with a mean pupae/positive container of 11.1. *Aedes albopictus* was observed from pupa reared from clusters identified to

have low reported dengue incidence and low density cluster.

Regarding Key Containers. The key containers for the *private spaces* were drums (61.7%), those falling under the “others” category (14%), and tires (7%). Containers falling under the “others” category are varied: discarded items (jar, pot, pot cover, plastic plates, plate trays, drum cover, dipper, flower pot, Styrofoam ice box); trash (plastic mineral water containers, basketball ring stand, rolled canvass); dish racks found in kitchens; and a fountain in a garden.

When examined by population density and reported dengue case incidence, drums were still the key containers. Seventy-three (73) drums were observed to contain pupa; 92% (or 67) of the drums were used for household purposes.

The key containers from public spaces include tires (41%) as the overall key container; those falling under the “others” category (15%) (consisting of old cups and discarded toilet, water tank top cover); and coconut shells (12%).

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Meanwhile, the social factors, derived from the KAP Survey, FGDs and HH Observations, were:

Regarding Knowledge. A great part of the sample were knowledgeable in terms of the vector and the disease itself: 59% are from high dengue incidence barangays, and 72% are from low dengue incidence barangays. A few had some misconceptions as to the vector that carries the virus, and in terms of the possible breeding sites of the mosquito.

Regarding Attitudes. The respondents perceive the prevention and solution of dengue as the government's responsibility.

Commonly Suggested Interventions were fogging, health education, and checking of water containers. Among those who learned/participated in training for dengue control, 37% are from high dengue incidence barangays, and 31% are from low dengue incidence barangays.

Community participation in health-related activities is very minimal. The importance of the barangay health workers' role in the community has been downplayed.





Regarding Practices. Practices related to cleanliness are still not a priority in the barangays. Of the community programs implemented to clean the environment, 54% are from the high dengue incidence barangays, and 63% are from the low dengue incidence barangays. Some areas in Muntinlupa, particularly near the high

density clusters, remain to have unfavorable environmental conditions. Water supply is a problem and the practice of storing water is common.

Among the sampled residents who store water, 78% are residents from the high dengue incidence barangays and 55% are from the low dengue incidence clusters. Women (specifically mothers) are usually in charge of storing water and cleaning water storage containers. Water supply is a problem and the practice of storing water is common.

The findings from the surveys will be analyzed and used as a basis for identifying appropriate interventions that consider the influence of vector ecology, socio-behavioral, and control program and activities factors on vector density.

Rural and Urban Development/Sustainable Development and Social Change

Negotiating Land Rights and Natural Resource Regulations for Local People: The Role and Effectiveness of Secondary Farmer and Community Organizations in Upland Watersheds of Southeast Asia

Project Director : Ma. Elena Chiong-Javier

Funding Agency: International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)
SEA Regional Research Programme

Status : Completed

The study was a response to the existing research gap on local secondary organizations or federations in the region. It sought to understand why and how secondary organizations in Philippine upland watersheds are formed, what services these organizations provide to support their member primary organizations' resource management practices, how they influence the formulation and implementation of natural resource management policies, and what they require to be effective secondary organizations tasked with resource management. The study utilized a combination of quantitative and





qualitative methods, including literature review, surveys, informal and semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and case studies. The study sites were the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya in Luzon and Bukidnon in Mindanao, which were reported to have active or functional federations and provincial governments supportive of the federations. Twelve federations (out of 23 in both provinces) and 27 (out of 75) of their member primary organizations were studied. Data gathering was completed after two years.

A report on the findings of this study was submitted and became integrated in a working paper published by the ICRAF Southeast Asian Office in Bogor, Indonesia in 2007.

Agroforestry and Sustainable Vegetable Production in SEA Watersheds

Project Director: Ma. Elena Chiong-Javier
Funding Agency: United States Agency for International Development
(through North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State
University (NCA&T))
Status: Ongoing

The study is a four-year project launched in 2006 with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It is being undertaken by a collaborative partnership between the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (lead institution) and multiple institutions particularly from the countries of Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines in the Southeast Asian (SEA) region. The project belongs to an umbrella program called Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management-Collaborative Research Support Program (SANREM-CRSP) managed by Virginia Tech.

In general, the project seeks to reduce poverty, food scarcity, and environmental degradation in the region by combining economically-viable and resource-conserving technologies and gender friendly socio-economic policies that will benefit and reward





stakeholders in a watershed, especially small scale women and men farmers. It is hypothesized that “integrating vegetable production in the agroforestry system on small farms will help to alleviate poverty and enhance environmental protection, sustainability, and ecosystem biodiversity in SEA watersheds and vice versa.” The

project has specific objectives on SANREM technology, marketing, policy, environmental and socioeconomic impacts, gender, and scaling-up (TMPEGS). Different studies to realize each of these objectives are simultaneously and sequentially being conducted primarily by collaborating institutions in the three countries with inputs from technical experts from western academic institutions and international research centers. In the Philippine case, the market and gender studies were assigned to SDRC.

The market study has aimed to conduct market value chain research at the local, regional, and national levels that builds upon existing market strategies, and to develop interventions to overcome constraints and take advantage of opportunities. On the other hand, the gender component has aimed to provide mechanisms to improve the socio-economic well-being of women engaged in vegetable production and agroforestry enterprises, especially in terms of income and labor share, and to involve women in decisions that concern their welfare.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Among the insights presented in the study are:

- ❖ Marketing is an individual rather than a collective enterprise; the marketer thrives through ingenious ways of tying the farmer and his supplies to the marketer.



- ❖ The supply chains are not demand-driven but dominated and driven by middlemen-buyers; farmers at the upstream are neither market-savvy nor oriented to downstream/consumer preferences.
- ❖ Any assistance to increase farm productivity, whether for vegetables or tree crops, will continue to be cornered by men.
- ❖ Development of tree-based market enterprises cannot but also be male-directed and -oriented.
- ❖ However, vegetable-related market enterprises shall most likely impact directly and positively on women's welfare.

Process Documentation of the 3D Mapping of the Teduray-Lambangian-Dulaan Manobo Ancestral Domain Claim in Sitio Kifeng-feng South Upi, Maguindanao

Project Director : Ma. Elena Chiong-Javier
 Researcher : Dennis Erasga
 Funding Agency : Upland NGO Assistance Committee (UNAC)
 Status : Completed

This project aimed to assist PAFID-Mindanao and the local NGO and IPO involved in the 3D Mapping activities preparatory to the Indigenous People's Organizations' ancestral domain claim within an ARMM (Autonomous of Muslim Mindanao) area. The 3D Mapping activities surfaced the need to understand the unique situation of IPs such as the Teduray-Lambangian-Dulaan Manobo who are found in a Muslim-governed region. Hence, the project sought to review the literature and interview selected key informants to elicit issues and problems related to establishing an ancestral domain claim in a Muslim territory, the constraints encountered in existing



government policies and programs, and the nature of the difficulties met when implementing the laws/policies in an autonomous region.

The study was completed with the submission of a report to UNAC in February 2008.

Linking Knowledge to Policy in Transboundary Water Governance: A Focus on Research-Based Knowledge and the Policy Process

Project Director : Antonio C. Contreras
Funding Agency : Unit for Social and Environmental Research, Chiang Mai
University, Thailand
Status : Ongoing

M-POWER stands for Mekong Program on Water, Environment and Resilience. It is one of the many programs under the Challenge Program of CGIAR that focus on river basins in the world.

Its major goal is to improve livelihood security, human and ecosystem health in the Mekong Region through democratizing water governance. The program is based at the Unit for Social and Environmental Research of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Chiang Mai University, but is carried out through a network of partner institutions, researchers, and research fellows from within the Mekong Region and Southeast Asia.

The activities of the M-POWER program focus on the conduct of action research organized around a set of comparative and regional studies on sectoral and more cross-cutting governance themes. The sectoral themes include:

- ❖ Fisheries ensuring food security
- ❖ Floods reducing the risks of disaster

- ❖ Irrigation managing supply and demand
- ❖ Hydropower meeting energy needs fairly and sustainably
- ❖ Watersheds securing resilient livelihoods
- ❖ Waterworks providing water for households and industry

The cross-cutting governance themes include:

- ❖ Dialogue deliberation, diplomacy and negotiation
- ❖ Social justice gender, ethnicity and class
- ❖ Knowledge assessment, practice and communication
- ❖ Policies integration, decentralization and privatization

Each thematic area is led by a theme leader, who is tasked to coordinate the work of several research fellows based in partner organizations in the Mekong Region.

Research Plan for 2007-2008

M-POWER as an Epistemic Community. Peter Haas (1990) has defined an epistemic community as “knowledge-based groups of experts and specialists who share common beliefs about cause-and-effect relationships in the world and some political values concerning the ends to which policies should be addressed” (xviii).

These groups are usually composed of scientists from several countries, organized with the goal of influencing the political process both locally and internationally, with the ultimate aim of engendering some forms of international action on a specific set of environmental problems. The effectiveness to influence such processes is mainly derived from “their ability to persuade others that their knowledge is valid and sufficiently important to require a policy response” (Carter 2001 : 241).

After about two years of formal existence, and in the context of the above, greater attention was paid to how the community acts in relation to its knowledge resources in M-POWER. One important research question that must be asked by partners and researchers in M-POWER is whether, by nature and as a matter of principle, the experts and specialists involved in the research do in fact compose an epistemic community. If this can be agreed on, then several corollary questions emerge:

- ❖ Is the community conscious of, and has it sufficiently identified, the political processes that it must influence?
- ❖ Are its knowledge resources (i.e. researches of our fellows and researchers) valid and sufficiently important to require a policy response?
- ❖ Does it harness its knowledge resources toward activities that would enable it to influence political processes?
 - If so,
 - How is the community involved? (i.e. through what activities does it intervene?)

- At what level (local, regional, global) is it making its interventions?
- In what particular phase of the political process/policy process is it involved?
- Is it effective in engendering some kind of policy action?
- If not,
 - What are the barriers that constrain the community?
 - What actions should be taken to enable it to be engaged in these types of activities?

It is through this form of “researching on ourselves” that the community would be able to engage our effectiveness and relevance more concretely.

Research Design and Timetable. The research is being conducted in the form of a performance evaluation, using two sets of instruments that are administered to all parties involved in M-POWER. These are:

- ❖ A performance-based rubric developed to evaluate activities that were sponsored, conducted, or participated in by M-POWER, either as an institution through its representatives, or through its members in their individual capacities.
- ❖ A survey questionnaire that focuses on the personal assessment of research leaders, research fellows, heads of partner organizations and other pertinent individuals on the nature and performance of M-POWER as an epistemic community.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The different activities scheduled for the research are: preparation of instruments (months 1-2); administration of the instrument (months 3-8); analysis of the instrument (months 9-10); and preparation of the report (months 11-12).

Dr. Antonio Contreras is the main person involved in the research as the Research Leader for the Knowledge Theme. However, all persons and organizations involved in M-POWER are involved as respondents and participants in the study.

The expected output of the study is an assessment report of the performance of M-POWER as an epistemic community.

Accomplishments. For the second year of M-POWER, the following have been accomplished:

- ❖ A survey instrument was formulated;
- ❖ This survey instrument was administered during the annual meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam; and
- ❖ A preliminary analysis was conducted.

Human and Cultural Capital Formation

Pundasyon Hanunuo Mangyan School Project

Project Director :	Carmelita I. Quebengco
Administrative Assistant :	Juana Aluning
Teachers :	Evelyn Malabja-Aaron (Head Teacher), Liling Madrigal, Glenie Rivas, Dorothy Magbata, Arsenia Maligday
Funding Agency:	Benefactor
Status :	Ongoing

The Pundasyon Hanunuo Mangyan School formally opened on October 17, 1983, with the major objectives of establishing an elementary education program that would be appropriate to the needs, experiences, and aspirations of the Hanunuo Mangyan community; and to help build the community's capability to ultimately manage the school. Participants in the project are children and adults coming from



three neighboring sitios in the municipality of Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro.

Since the school has been in operation, the local community has actively participated in school management, and the Mangyan leaders have taken full

RESEARCH PROJECTS

charge of various school operations involving both pupils and teachers. De La Salle University and Chancellor Emeritus Carmelita I. Quebengco who continues to act as project director, remain consultants to the school, meeting regularly with school leaders to help solve problems and attend to other school needs.

For the 2007-08 schoolyear, Agriculture as a subject was added to the curriculum, during which the teachers guided the pupils in cultivating the school garden and planting different vegetables. At the end of the year there were 117 students in the PHMS in Umabang ranging from grades 1 to 6, and 108 students in Bailan ranging from grades 1 to 5, who were promoted to the next level of schooling. It was noted that the trend of dropping out of school due to early marriage had decreased compared to earlier years. Among the parents, on the other hand, an increase in attendance at the monthly PTA meeting was observed.



Institutional Reforms/Local Government Development

Complementing DILG Assessment of MDG Localization Efforts: Cross Checking LGU Data and Capacity Building on Data Analysis and Utilization

Project Director : Ma. Angeles G. Lapeña
 Research Associates : Jesusa M. Marco, Cristina A. Rodriguez, Benito L. Teehankee
 Research Assistants : Avelita Lapitan, Ronald Quizon, Gerald Peñaranda
 Funding Agency: United Nations Development Programme (through National Economic and Development Authority Social Development Staff)
 Status : Ongoing

Funded by the United Nations Development Programme through the National Economic and Development Authority Social Development Staff, it is through this project that SDRC joins the Department of the Interior and Local Government in monitoring LGU initiatives toward the pursuit of attaining the Millennium



Development Goals. Capacity building activities were conducted in four capacity building sessions, primarily aimed at ensuring sustainability in the implementation of the MDGs through a regular or institutional use of DILG MDG tracking data and statistics for program evaluation. There were two clusters

each for Luzon and Mindanao, and one for the Visayas. An estimated total of 200 participants attended the sessions, which were divided into two parts: the first for Data Processing and Analysis, and the second for Data Management and Utilization. The sessions began on November 14-16, 2007 at the DLSU



campus for Luzon Cluster II (from regions IV, V and NCR); a second session was held on November 19-21 at the Pearlmont Inn in Cagayan de Oro for the two Mindanao clusters. The remaining sessions were held starting the last week of November.

The project is being undertaken to complement DILG's tracking of LGU initiatives and progress toward the achievement of MDGs, given its need for technical expertise in the analysis of MDG-related data generated at the LGUs, as well as in capacitating their regional and field offices on data management and utilization. To fulfill this objective, the capacity building activities were conducted by way of trainer's training sessions on management by factual, evidence-based problem solving and quality assurance in local governance for DILG regional and provincial mobile teams. The teams will, in turn, provide technical assistance to LGUs on the processing analysis and utilization of the DILG MDG tracking data.

SDRC Assisted Projects for CLA

Paths to Social Integration and Participation for the Youth in the Philippines and Asia

Project Director : Madelene Sta. Maria
Status : Ongoing

The project is being undertaken to determine the opportunities and constraints that face the youth in their development as active and productive members of society. Youth life in the various contexts of development and in selected developmental outcomes provides the structure to the research initiatives under this project. These contexts are the family and peers, the school, and work. The developmental outcomes initially focused on are spirituality, mental health and political participation. The developmental processes that deal with the self, beliefs and values formation, the formation of social identity, and role inclusion/exclusion were of interest within these contexts.



The project consists of three phases. The first phase consisted of the conduct of focus groups for each of the seven research initiatives: the contexts of family, peers, school, work, and the outcomes of spirituality, mental health,

and political participation. The conduct of the focus groups during the first phase was undertaken for the purpose of identifying the constructs emerging from the experiences of the youth respondents in their developmental environments, and of generating items to measure these constructs. The second phase entails the construction of an instrument that allows for the measurement of the emerging constructs and for answers to research questions on the pathways to social integration and participation for the youth. The third phase will consist of the conduct of a nation-wide survey using the constructed instrument.

Project status. The first phase of the project has been completed with the conduct of the following:

1. Focus groups for each of the research initiatives
2. Analysis of the focus groups data, which resulted in the categories and data segments under the different dimensions for each developmental context/outcome
3. A framework that serves to integrate the categories emerging from the analysis of data from all research initiatives
4. A model integrating categories from the focus groups and constructs from existing relevant literature

At least two focus group discussions for both the urban and rural settings were conducted for each developmental context and each developmental outcome.

ASEAN Literatures/ BNSCWC English Translation Program

Project Director: Maria Lourdes Jacob
Status: Completed

Aiming to promote Philippine literature to the rest of the world, the Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center (BNSCWC), with the support of SDRC, recently started gathering materials for its English Translation Program.

The program is an offshoot of the Center's three-year-old Premio Ambahan project, which seeks to generate awareness of the rich literary works of the Mangyans through an annual poetry competition. The project aims to rediscover, revive, and make this ancient poetry form relevant to today's generation.

The translation program is gathering some of the country's literary gems in different dialects and translating them into English. Eventually, an ASEAN Literatures Center is to be established, through which ASEAN neighbors' works can also be translated. BNSCWC's long-term aim is to bring ASEAN literature to world attention. The new Center is foreseen to be operational in three years.

With a grant from SDRC, BNSCWC screened and selected literary works for translation into English: six poems and three short stories, written in various dialects, including Lumad and Moro.

DIRECTOR AND FELLOWS ACTIVITIES

Myla M. Arcinas presented a paper entitled “Enabling Women for Participatory Community Development: Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Women, Work and Development Project (The Case of the Philippines)” at the City University of Hongkong during a conference sponsored by the International Association of Community Development (IACD) held from June 25 to 27, 2007. She also made a presentation during the Poverty Reduction and Participatory Poverty Assessment Seminar held at Adamson University on August 16, 2007. The seminar was a joint activity of De Paul University in Chicago and Adamson University.

Carmelita I. Quebengco led the team that received solar cells from Sun Power through its Vice President for Operations Greg Reichow during a ceremonial turnover held on May 29, 2007 at the Yuchengco Lobby. The solar cells were used for Sinag, the first Philippine solar-powered car, constructed by La Salle's engineering students. Sinag participated in the 2007 World Solar Car Challenge in Australia, where it crossed the finish line ahead of more than a dozen rivals.



Dr. Quebengco was also a speaker during the Symposium on Philippine-France Historical Relations held at Ateneo de Manila University on June 26, 2007. In her talk, she described how De La Salle Philippines started through the efforts of the Christian Brothers who arrived in the country in 1911, in the hopes of continuing the Catholic education that St. John Baptist De La Salle started in France. She also noted that with a strong relationship with France, DLSU-M has created linkages with French universities to boost the University's internationalization program. The symposium, which was held in celebration of six decades of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and France, was organized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts together with the French Embassy.

Lastly, Dr. Quebengco shared the experiences of the University and of De La Salle Philippines during the Asia-Europe Colloquy on University governance and management in Malaysia, held on September 5 and 6, 2007, at the Malaysian Open University in Kuala Lumpur. The colloquy, organized by the European University Association (EUA), the Malaysian Vice-Chancellors Committee, and the Asia-Europe Meeting Education Hub, is an initiative of the Asia-Europe Foundation. Dr. Quebengco delivered a paper entitled "Strategic Management of Diverse Institutions: Balancing, teaching, research, and services," which opened the working group discussion. She discussed the initiatives made by DLSU for effective management practices and institutional policies, as seen in the Abra Microhydro Project, which provides an alternative source of energy to destitute rural communities in the country.

Antonio P. Contreras was among the DLSU professors who conducted lecture-seminars for the 2007 Advanced Filipino Abroad Program (AFAP) held from June 16 to August 4, 2007. AFAP immerses its participants in both structured and unstructured learning environments to effectively let students achieve higher proficiency in the language. The seven-week program tackled Philippine Culture, Economy, History, Religion, Visual Arts, Music, Performance Art, Literature, Politics, and Government. The program is supported by a consortium of six universities: Cornell University, University of Hawaii, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin at Madison, University of California at Berkeley, and University of Washington.

Dr. Contreras also presented papers entitled “The Seas of Our Insecurity: Ordinary versus State Discourses on Maritime and Human Security in the Philippines,” at the International Conference on Maritime Cooperation in East Asia: Competing Understandings of Human Security held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia from December 7 to 8, 2007; and “Transboundary Environmental Governance in Southeast Asia: Issues, Societal Context and Institutional Responses,” at the Meeting on Regional Voices: Transnational Challenges held in Bangkok, Thailand on September 14 and 15, 2007.

Cristela Goce-Dakila presented papers at the 11th World Conference on Transport Research sponsored by the World Conference on Transport Research Society (WCTRS) at the University of California, Berkeley on June 26 and 27, 2007. The papers she delivered were “The Spatial Impact of New Technology in LDCs: A General Equilibrium Approach” and “Tracing Interregional Freight Flows Via



Maritime Transport: A Five Region SAM Approach.” The WCTRS conference brought together transportation academics, executives, policy analysts, advisers, and operators who have a common interest in promoting state-of-the-art and state-of-the-practice transport research.

Dr. Goce-Dakila also participated in the 16th International Conference on Input-Output Techniques, under the auspices of the International Input-Output Association (IIOA), held in Istanbul Technical University in Turkey from July 2 to 6, 2007. IIOA seeks the advancement of knowledge in the field of input-output analysis, including improvements in basic data, theoretical insights and modeling, and applications, both traditional and novel, of input-output techniques. During this conference she presented a paper entitled “The Choice of Location of Transport Infrastructure Investment: A Spatial Computable General Equilibrium Approach.”

Lastly, Dr. Goce-Dakila presented a paper during the 7th International Conference of the Eastern Asian Society for Transportation Studies (EASTS), held from September 24 to 26, 2007 at the Dailan Maritime University in China. Her paper, entitled "Identifying Transport Infrastructure Investment with Maximum Impact: A SAM-Based General Equilibrium Approach," was published in the Journal of Eastern Asian Society for Transportation Studies (.EASTS) 7(7).

Ma. Elena Chiong-Javier spoke on "Reproductive Risks and Unmet Needs of Farm Women in the Philippine Agricultural Sector" in a paper presented at the 4th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights held at Hyderabad, India, October 29-31, 2007. She also



presented papers on "Gender Roles in Production and Marketing within the Vegetable-Agroforestry System in Bukidnon" at the 3rd National Agroforestry Congress, Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, Bacnotan, La Union, held from November 13 to 15, 2007; and on "The Teduray, Lambangian, Dulangan Manobo Struggle: Claiming the Right to Ancestral Domain in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao," at the SDRC-UNAC Forum and Validation Workshop on "Issues on Indigenous Peoples' Right to Ancestral Domain in the ARMM" held at the Lumad Development Center Inc. (LDCI) in Cotabato City on January 12, 2008.

Gabriel Garcia, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Public Health Department of Community Health Sciences with a minor in Anthropology, shared the preliminary findings in his dissertation study during a presentation entitled “To Smoke or Not to Smoke: Understanding Smoking and Nonsmoking Behavior among Filipinos” held on September 13, 2007 at La Salle Building Conference Room A. His study sought to identify demographic, cognitive, lifestyle, and environmental factors associated with smoking; to explore interpersonal factors that shape smoking and nonsmoking behaviors; and to understand the process of smoking and nonsmoking development. The study was



conducted in one high-smoking community, a barangay in Parañaque City, and in one low-smoking community, a barangay in Lucena City, Quezon.

From the quantitative data he collected, Mr. Garcia assigned five variable sets: one each on smoking behavior, intrapersonal factors (for males and females), family relationship, peer relationship, and environment. From his assessment of the quantitative and qualitative data, he intends to develop a framework that will better define smoking/nonsmoking behavior development among Filipinos.

Chantal Smeekens, a student of the master's degree programme Medical Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, presented findings from fieldwork conducted for her study during a presentation entitled "Belonging to an HIV-affected Family in Metro Manila, Philippines: An Exploratory Study About Stigma and Its Consequences for Social Identification" on November 14, 2007 at the SDRC Conference Room. In her study, she investigated the effects of HIV/AIDS on family members of people who are HIV positive, particularly since the family plays an important role in Filipino culture. The focus of her data gathering, conducted through observations, interviews, and life histories, was on the stigma and discrimination experienced by those associated with HIV/AIDS, and how family members deal with the situation.



Ms. Smeekens graduated with a degree in Health Psychology at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. She also has a minor in International Development Studies, part of which involved participation in an interdisciplinary summer course in the Philippines, which was her first exposure to the country and led her to conduct her masteral study on Filipino culture and health issues.

Carlyne Z. Yu, an MS in Urban Environmental Management candidate at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand, shared her findings on the study “Community Mobilization in River Rehabilitation” with research staff on January 21, 2008 at the SDRC Conference Room. Ms. Yu's study sought to identify the main



substantive contents of the (environmental) management measures implemented for the river rehabilitation program of Marikina City, and the dominant symbols and discourses used for these measures. It further sought to determine the extent to which and under what conditions the public has been

involved in the decision-making process of the river rehabilitation program; to investigate how the community has constructed its stakes and interests in the river rehabilitation program of the city; and to identify what were the dominant symbolic constructions and material stakes that have come into play in their participation in the river rehabilitation program.

From her study, Ms. Yu concluded that the communities were clearly not mobilized to their maximum potential for a successful rehabilitation of the Marikina River. She pointed out that there was too much focus on the enforcement of regulatory/command and control instruments, undermining the goals and impact of

the other tools, especially suasive measures. As a result, the community still does not take responsibility for some of its actions. Furthermore, economic instruments in the form of incentives/disincentives are still rarely explored.

It was recommended that the program make use of opportunities to increase community mobilization during the second phase of the program. Ms. Yu pointed out that economic incentives such as scholarships could be offered to communities treating their wastewater. In addition, there could be more



extensive use of suasive measures at the grassroots level for the development of interests and stakes focused on environmental protection and preservation. A bottom-up approach to planning and implementation of the program could likewise be introduced. Lastly, cross-subsidization for tariffs could be considered as a means of encouraging community participation.

RESEARCH FELLOWS, ASSOCIATES,
AND RESOURCE PERSONS

Antonio C. Contreras, *Ph.D. in Political Science*

Dennis S. Erasga, *Ph.D. in Environmental Science*

Stella P. Go, *M.A. in Sociology*

Cristela Goce-Dakila, *Doctor of Engineering*

Ma. Elena Chiong-Javier, *Ph.D. in Community Development*

Exaltacion E. Lamberte, *Ph.D. in Sociology*

Ma. Angeles G. Lapeña, *M. A. in Psychology*

Romeo B. Lee, *Ph.D. in Demography*

Alicia B. Manlagnit, *M. A. in Medical Anthropology*

Jesusa M. Marco, *Ph.D. in Sociology*

Carmelita I. Quebengco, *Doctor of Education in Educational Administration*

Cristina A. Rodriguez, *M.A. in Demography*

Madelene A. Sta. Maria, *Ph.D. in Psychology*

Benito L. Teehankee, *Doctor of Business Administration*

SDRC DIRECTOR AND CORE STAFF

Dr. Jesusa M. Marco
Director

Aurora S. Esquejo
Assistant for Administration and Budget

Connie Jan Maraan
Coordinator for Research and Dissemination

Rommel M. Billena
*Coordinator for Project Support Services
for Fellows and Visiting Researcher Program*

Lyndia E. Navarro
Disbursement and Operation Liaison Officer

Maria Catherine D. Domingo
Resource and Information Assistant

Lolita P. Rosell
Coordinator for Secretarial and Support Services/Practicum/Apprenticeship

Reynaldo V. Porsuelo
Aide for Messengerial and Equipment Maintenance

PROJECT RESEARCH STAFF

Reiza Ayla Bañega

Kristina Grace de la Cruz

Ma. Rosario Eugenio

Desiree Concepcion Garganian-Aragones

Melvin Jabar

Avelita Lapitan

Ysadora Mendoza

Gerald Peñaranda

Ronald Quizon

Kay Katherine Zabala

PUNDASYON HANUNUO MANGYAN SCHOOL STAFF AND TEACHERS

Juana Aluning (Administrative Assistant)

Evelyn Malabja- Aaron (Head Teacher)

Liling Madrigal

Dorothy Magbata

Arsenia Maligday

Glenie Rivas

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER
DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-MANILA

3/F William Hall Building

2401 Taft Avenue, Manila 1004 Philippines

Tel. No. (632) 524-4611 loc. 402 / 524-5349 Telefax No. (632) 524-5351

Website: www.dlsu.edu.ph/research/centers/sdrc