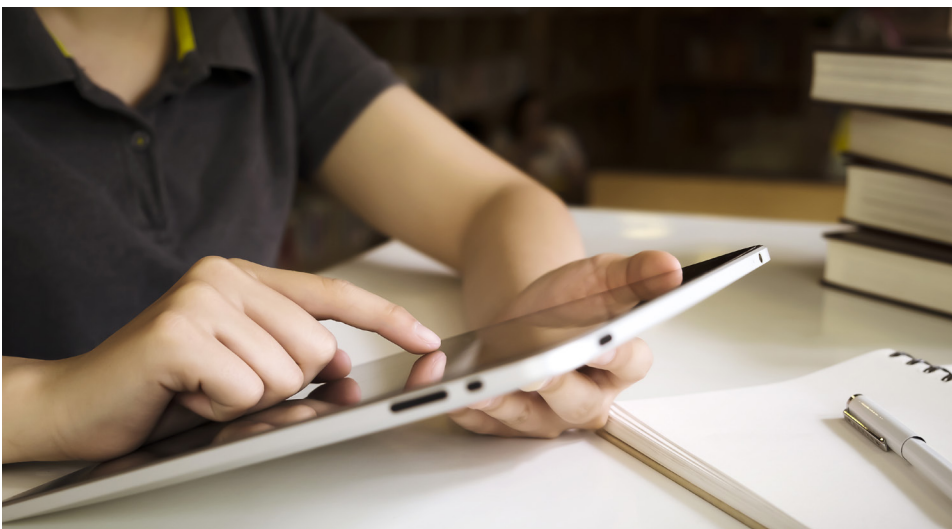


## Higher educ, research orgs must embrace open access

RESEARCH AND HIGHER education institutions (HEIs) must embrace digital technology and social media as tools in promoting their research and educational materials, making these resources more accessible to Filipinos.

During the fifth biennial meeting of the Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P), the University of the Philippines (UP) and state think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) jointly pushed for greater accessibility of research and educational materials through online and digital media platforms, citing the need for instant access to scientific findings relevant in crafting transformative policies and programs in the country.

Following the open access movement, said institutions are battling for putting troves of research and information—which had largely been beneficial to only those who could



More Filipinos will have greater access to quality research and education through open access aided by digital technology.

### Editor's Notes

With all the impressive developments in today's technologies and markets, it is inarguable that the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRe) is already here. While we have yet to grasp FIRe's scope and complexity in its entirety, one thing is clear: All approaches to this revolution must be anchored on evidence-based research to allow ourselves to maximize its benefits and regulate its risks.

To this end, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) dedicates the fourth and last issue of the *Development Research News* for 2018 to the discussion of issues surrounding FIRe, focusing on the education sector. It specifically covers FIRe-related issues on education, such as open access, innovation, copyright, as well as policies, such as the K to 12 program.

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### What's Inside

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afford it—in the hands of those who could benefit from it, such as policymakers, educators, and those in the margins.

In line with this, the country’s premier university has already employed digital technologies and social media to widen access to UP quality education to at least 70 countries worldwide, according to Director Liza Gelisan of the UP Open University (UPOU) Multimedia Center.

“Currently, our students are not only from the Philippines, but also from 70 countries worldwide, including those employed as overseas Filipino workers,” Gelisan explained.

Filipino nurses abroad are already taking master’s courses through the UPOU.

“Our e-learners can practically attend their virtual classes anytime and anywhere using any hardware, such as tablets, laptops, and mobile phones,” she added.

Meanwhile, PIDS President Celia Reyes highlighted the value of online media in addressing the hardship faced by regional researchers in accessing studies done by Manila-based institutions, such as PIDS.

“That is the gap that we are trying to address through SERP-P, particularly the limited number of institutions promoting the open access movement,” Reyes explained.

Among others, the PIDS official explained the establishment of SERP-P is in line with PIDS’ mandates of providing a common link between the government and research institutions, and of establishing an online repository of socioeconomic research information.

“Today, we are entering the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and as such, we should explore how digital technologies can make our studies and materials more effective and accessible to the public,” she added.

At present, all socioeconomic studies and materials produced by the Institute are accessible for free through its website and the SERP-P portal, among other online platforms.

PIDS has also boosted the public access to its printed materials through the establishment of PIDS Corners spread across the Philippines.

To date, the Institute has put up 25 PIDS Corners located in public libraries and university-based libraries.

### Social media as infra for info

Since 1960s, UP has spearheaded open and distance learning in the country through different innovations, starting from its schools on-the-air (SOAs).

According to Gelisan, the very first SOAs—the forerunners of modern distance education in the country—were aired over the university’s Radyo DZLB. These materials were primarily crafted for farmers, out-of-school youths, housewives, and people in the rural areas, or those who did not have the capacity to attend formal schooling.

Distance learning has since evolved to utilize online media, such as the Massive Open Distance e-Learning (MODEL), UP’s official platform for online courses.

Through MODEL, UP has allowed greater number of Filipinos to access its educational materials covering communication, technology, rights, and sustainable development, among others.

According to UPOU’s website, these materials are endorsed by the Commission



Philippine Institute for Development Studies President Celia M. Reyes recognizes the potentials of online media to address the research information gap through the open access movement.



The University of the Philippines Open University—the country's pioneer institution in online education—employs digital media as learning tools to enable open learning and distance education in the Philippines (Photo from up.edu.ph).

on Higher Education and are currently accessible to the public for free.

Gelisan also explained faculty and students have come to appreciate Facebook, Twitter, and even Instagram as platforms for discussion as they explore a variety of technologies appropriate for distance education.

“Many of the younger generation are adept in using Facebook, where they are more engaged given its informal structure,” the UPOU official explained.

Nonetheless, she reminded the participants to always ensure that the technology used for education must be “pedagogically sound and socially driven”.

“We should not use the technology just to be branded high-tech,” she explained, adding institutions must consider their objectives, as well as their

capacities and that of their learners, in the selection of their platforms for knowledge sharing.

Similar to UP's experience, PIDS has likewise utilized online platforms to boost public access to its materials.

The Institute currently maintains Facebook and Twitter accounts, with at least 12,000 and 1,500 followers, respectively.

Through these platforms, PIDS has popularized its research findings through engaging posts, such as PIDS Fact Friday and Policy Issue at A Glance.

PIDS events are also being livestreamed through online channels.

#### **Social media as a feedback tool**

Following UP's experience, Patrick Salamat, former communications

director at the Department of Education (DepED), also urged HEIs to harness the potentials of social media in generating feedback from their clientele to improve the participatory layer of their education, research, and extension mandates.

“Through the DepED social media account, we were able to identify the issues that are not usually tackled in the department but actually resonated with our audience,” Salamat said, citing his experience as communications chief.

“For instance, a viral video of a school salutatorian calling out her school's administration about its prejudiced grading system resulted in the release of a memorandum clarifying standards on the selection of honor students,” he cited.

Salamat also emphasized the importance of finding digital contents that matter to

HEIs' audience and having an established social media policy, especially in dealing with both the positive and the negative feedbacks, among others.

### Ready to assist

During the event, both UP and PIDS aired their commitment to assist research and other HEIs in utilizing digital technology and social media to advance open access of their materials.



⇒ **p. 14** Online media has been widely used for easier and faster information sharing among learners, especially the younger generation.

## Poor innovation in PH educ hit

THERE IS NOT much innovation in the Philippine education system despite the country's high digital scorecard.

This was according to Asian Institute of Management (AIM) President Jikyeong Kang in her presentation during the forum titled, "Seeking Out Opportunities and Gearing up for the Challenges in the 4th Industrial Revolution", organized by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), in partnership with the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department of the House of Representatives and AIM.

Kang explained that while the Philippine internet statistics are actually higher than

worldwide figures in terms of internet usage, the country may just be fixated on the use of social media per se, but not on the use of internet to improve its education system.

The situation is compounded by that fact that educators are not trained how to teach in the digital age.

As such, the country now fares lower in terms of the quality of higher education when compared to its neighboring Asian countries, Kang revealed.

### Not enough support

The issue of poor innovation in the country may merely be a reflection of a

bigger problem—the country's lack of support to its research and development (R&D) sector.

Dr. Jose Ramon Albert, PIDS senior research fellow, lamented that the Philippines, despite having an improved economy, has lagged behind other countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in terms of investments in R&D.

"Our R&D expenditure is so low compared to that of other nations in the ASEAN regional bloc. We are spending 0.2 percent of the gross domestic product on R&D, which is way below the suggested international standard of 1 percent," he explained.



This may be attributed to the country's meager budget for research, according to Department of Trade and Industry Assistant Secretary Rafaelita Aldaba.

Aldaba explained that while there were increases in R&D funds, these were still a bit far from what is required.

Kang added that the Philippine government finds it hard to “open its wallet” to human capital investments, particularly training in innovation and technology.

### Reimagining education

Given these issues concerning the adoption of innovation in the country's

education system, Kang urged institutions to shift the focus of their reforms to the needs of the 21st century.

“The concept of education should be changed. While literacy and numeracy are still important, we should be able to adapt by thinking about what to teach and how to teach,” Kang explained.

Citing her AIM experience as an educator, she acknowledged the need to leverage technology in redesigning the education system and adapt to how students learn differently in this age.

“Youngsters and millennials learn very differently. Their attention span is only

two minutes, maximum. We have tapped companies to break down our lecture materials into two-minute chunks because that is just how long they can hold their attention,” she said, citing how AIM injects creativity to adapt to the learning process of today's students.

Institutions should likewise prepare the youth for lifelong learning, Kang emphasized in her talk.

“This is an era of lifelong learning. The students must be able to learn how to continuously learn by themselves, learn things fast, learn to take advantage of technology, and learn by doing or experience,” she added.



Asian Institute of Management (AIM) President and Dean Jikyeong Kang emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning in the digital age to adapt to the fast-changing needs of the 21st century in her talk during the knowledge forum titled, “Seeking Out Opportunities and Gearing up for the Challenges in the 4th Industrial Revolution”, organized by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), in partnership with the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department of the House of Representatives and AIM.



It might also help to equip the students with other competencies, such as soft skills, personal competencies, humanities, and liberal arts, for them to succeed, the official explained.

### Triple helix collaboration

These reforms, however, entail collaboration and partnerships among three key stakeholders, namely the academe, the industry, and the government.

Also known as the triple helix approach, such collaboration of relevant stakeholders can accelerate innovation, create technology, help develop new skills set, and foster knowledge exchange vital to the industry and in policymaking, according to Kang.

“The industry is thinking about value, the government would like to make an impact, and the academe wants to generate new knowledge. We should find a commonality

and think about how different units should work together,” she explained.

Aside from collaboration, the AIM official also acknowledged that the massive demands of the industry and the uncertainty and complexity of the digital age would require greater involvement of the industry in terms of training and the government in terms of funding in higher education.

**CPSD, RTT**



## Copyright policy on AI remains hazy

MAY COPYRIGHT BE extended to works generated using artificial intelligence (AI)?

This is the ongoing debate among policymakers and information technology experts, according to the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL) during the 5th Biennial Meeting of the Socioeconomic Research portal for the Philippines (SERP-P).

Josephine Santiago, director-general of the IPOP HL, explained that while software and computer programs are afforded copyright protection in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRe), the authorship, ownership, and

personality of AI-generated literary and artistic works remain unclear, thus the need for further studies and research.

In 2017 alone, Santiago explained that her agency received around 243,000 total applications for patent protection.

Of this figure, computer technology and digital communication had the most number of patent applications, followed by digital communication and electrical machinery.

The IPOP HL official also noted the contribution of copyright-based and trademark industries to employment.

Current figures indicate that their employment contribution can reach as high as 14.14 percent and 15 percent, respectively.

The share of these industries to GDP can also be as high as 7.34 percent.

Given the importance of protecting intellectual property to the country's economic development through the creation of new jobs and industries, Santiago urged the government to immediately address the unclear policy on AI, especially as the country embraces the markets emerging from FIRe. **RTT**

# Implementation issues hound K to 12 transition

THE K TO 12 Transition Program of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) faced implementation issues that hampered the country's smooth transition to the K to 12 program, a study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) revealed.

Established in 2015, the K to 12 Transition Program aimed to mitigate the negative impacts of and ensure a smooth transition to the K to 12 program. It also sought to assist higher education institutions in updating their curriculum.

Among its priority purposes, however, was to assist faculty members, who were affected by the program, by giving them opportunities for professional development, such as international and local scholarships for graduate studies and training programs.

Unfortunately, it encountered several implementation bottlenecks, one of which was CHED's inadequate preparation for the implementation of the K to 12 program itself, as it was initially seen as a program that should be led by the Department of Education.

"It could have also been a reason for the lack of time for CHED to prepare for the transition process itself," author Alex Brillantes, Jr. explained.

The PIDS consultant added that the scholarships for affected personnel only began in 2015, the same year when

CHED started its preparations for the full implementation of the K to 12 program.

## Huge volume of work

Among the agencies involved, CHED's Program Management Unit (PMU) bore most of the problem, according to the study.

The huge volume of work that came with the program made it difficult for the PMU to adjust, resulting in delays in the implementation of the program.

For instance, the awarding of scholarship applications, one of the core features of the program, was delayed because these were being processed by a limited number of staff, "who themselves were also adjusting to the operational demands of the program," Brillantes revealed.

Meanwhile, for those who have already been awarded with scholarships, the delays in the processing of allowances have led to scholars dropping out of the program.

The study noted that these delays brought a negative image to CHED, which may have discouraged interested applicants to apply in the program.

These delays have been exacerbated by an inadequate record-keeping system and lack of an automated system for processing applications that led to misplacement of documents submitted by the applicants, the study found.

The huge volume of applications also took a toll on the PMU staff, who were mostly inexperienced in government accounting and procurement rules and procedures, according to Brillantes.

The study noted the insufficiency of regular plantilla positions for CHED staff "despite the massive volume of work" given to them, resulting in uneven volume of workload assigned to some staff.

For example, in the unit handling the local scholarship applications, "the current ratio of project technical staff to local scholarship applications is 1 to 1,384," Brillantes said.

## Implement reforms

Nevertheless, the challenges faced by the K to 12 Transition Program have served as a learning process for CHED, pushing it to implement reforms.

These reforms, however, have been overshadowed by the negative perceptions of the program due to the experiences of applicants and grantees, Brillantes said.

To further strengthen its reforms, Brillantes urged CHED to institutionalize a continuing review of the program's policies with stakeholders to ensure continuous improvement.

Moreover, CHED should continue building the capacities of its PMU staff

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# Study doubts climate aid of developed nations



Matthew Dornan, Australian National University-Crawford School of Public Policy deputy director, criticizes climate aid from development countries, saying they are only relabeled and not from new and additional sources.

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE merely relabeling their development aid as climate relevant, instead of providing new and additional resources of climate finance to developing countries.

Speaking at the 4th International Symposium on Asian Development Studies organized by state think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), Matthew Dornan, deputy director of the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University, criticized the current state of the world's climate finance, claiming most public climate finance, especially for adaptation, has also come from aid budgets, not from new and additional sources.

This is contrary to the agreement during the 2009 Copenhagen Summit, where developed countries have pledged to mobilize USD 100 billion every year for climate change adaptation and mitigation from “new and additional” financial resource.

While the pledge is generally considered as a charity, it is actually a form of compensation for harm largely caused by industrialized countries to developing nations, following the polluter pays principle.

It is also a recognition that addressing climate change requires action in both developed and developing countries, and that the latter may not have enough resources to invest sufficiently in mitigation.

Dornan analyzed the allocation of aid and noted remarkable similarities between the flow of aid intended for climate adaptation and mitigation and that for development efforts.

For example, he noted the similarities in terms of geographic distribution of aid for development, mitigation, and adaptation, wherein countries that received high level of development aid also received more climate-related aid.

“These similarities are not consistent with a new form of finance provided for different motives to ‘regular’ aid,” he said.

His study also discovered that while poorer countries received more development and climate aid, the poorest countries received lower levels of development aid and climate finance most likely because of the latter's perceived inability to absorb such assistance.

## Being an ASEAN member a plus

Nevertheless, Dornan noted that being a member-state of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) increases the likelihood of receiving more regular development assistance as well as climate finance, both mitigation and adaptation aid, compared to non-ASEAN members.

In the latest *World Risk Report*, which ranks countries based on their exposure to natural hazards and inherent





vulnerability, five Asian countries ranked among the top 20 countries with the highest risk worldwide.

In the said report, the Philippines placed third, followed by Bangladesh (5th), Brunei Darussalam (12th), Japan (17th), and Vietnam (18th).

PIDS Senior Research Fellow Francis Mark Quimba welcomed the findings of Dornan, especially that disaster mortality rate in the ASEAN region is on the rise.

Citing an ASEAN Post report, Quimba noted that deaths from natural disasters spiked more than sevenfold, from eight deaths per 100,000 people between 1990 and 2003 to 61 deaths per 100,000 people between 2004 and 2014.

Quimba said the role of ASEAN in undertaking collaborative multistakeholder climate change mitigation projects that could be funded by development aid or by member-states themselves has become more important.

The International Symposium on Asian Development Studies was organized by PIDS in partnership with the Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation and Korea Foundation.

It served as a venue for researchers from ASEAN, Japan, China, and Australia, to share their insights on prevailing and emerging issues in ASEAN, as well as the role of member-countries in ASEAN's regional cooperation and integration. **GGM**



RESEARCH PAPER SERIES NO. 2018-04

**Sustainable Development Goal 5:  
How Does the Philippines Fare  
on Gender Equality?**

Clarissa C. David  
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# Gender concerns not a priority in aid allocation

GENDER EQUALITY AND women empowerment remain nonpriority concerns under the Japanese and South Korean official development assistance (ODA).

This was according to a study by Eun Mie Lim, professor at Ewha Womans University in South Korea, presented during the 4th International Symposium on Asian Development Studies organized by state think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

For years, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region has been a priority aid beneficiary of Japan and South Korea.

In 2012 alone, approximately USD 4.2 billion Japanese aid flowed to the ASEAN region.

The Japanese government likewise remains the biggest ODA donor of the Philippines. South Korea, meanwhile, ranks among the country's top development partners, extending as much as USD 608.72 million in 2013.

However, a big chunk of this financial support has gone to commercial and strategic interests, Japan and South Korea's top aid priorities, not to interventions to address gender and women issues in the region.

Specifically, Lim's study showed that Japan's ODA was poured into economic



Ewha Womans University Professor Eun Mie Lim claims there is not enough aid allocation for women concerns in Japanese and South Korean official development assistance.

infrastructure, while Korea's aid allocation focused on social infrastructure.

Meanwhile, aid on gender equality and women empowerment has only been a secondary objective and thus limited by small proportion.

## Gender as aid component

Following the signing of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both Japan and South Korea committed to promote gender equality by integrating gender into their development cooperation strategies.

It follows, therefore, that ODA-funded projects in the Philippines must include gender components.

"It is important to monitor and evaluate aid activities to assess its impact and determine progress in achieving gender goals," Lim said during an interview after the presentation.

She stressed the need for indepth study to assess whether such aid allocation on gender is indeed utilized for gender activities.

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# SERP-P gears up for Industry 4.0



Network partners from across the country participate in the 5th Network Biennial Meeting of the Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines Project at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies in Quezon City.

A TOTAL OF 65 representatives from 32 partner-institutions in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao took part in the 5th Network Biennial Meeting of the Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) Project held recently at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) in Quezon City.

In her opening remarks, PIDS President Celia Reyes recognized SERP-P as a resilient knowledge network due to the strong partnership among the network members.

“SERP-P can be considered a product of the information age in which the centerpiece is the concept of a knowledge-based economy. But it is even more than that. Because SERP-P promotes knowledge networking, it is also part of a network economy where the knowledge

produced by its members are shared among and across various local and international networks,” Reyes added.

The PIDS official also emphasized the need to explore digital technologies to produce smart and sustainable products and services that are also accessible to all segments of society, especially as the Philippines enters the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRe), also known as Industry 4.0.

“We should be open to explore new things and be ready to learn, unlearn, and relearn. We should be open to collaborate with one another and with other sectors and stakeholders in generating new knowledge, in applying them, and in evaluating their usefulness,” Reyes concluded.

With the theme “Gearing Up for SERP-P 4.0”, the meeting aimed to strengthen the partnership in knowledge exchange among the 54 members of the SERP-P Network.

During the event, representatives from various member-organizations also reviewed the progress of the SERP-P project implementation and strategized on ways forward.

### More than 6,600 materials

SERP-P Project Manager Sheila Siar, together with SERP-P Coordinator Jachin Jane Aberilla, presented the accomplishments of the project since the last biennial meeting in 2016.

Siar revisited the outputs of the visioning exercise from the 4th biennial meeting in

2016, noting that one of the main goals of the network for 2018 was to have a more strengthened and engaged SERP-P network with members fully committed in contributing materials to the portal and in promoting the open access agenda.

With that, the team announced that from 5,654 materials in 2016, the portal is now home to more than 6,600 materials from the contributions of partner-institutions.

Nonetheless, SERP-P continued to face challenges in its implementation, particularly the persistent low participation of some partner-institutions and the low level of awareness of the benefits of SERP-P among its intended users.

Interventions have been introduced by the SERP-P team to resolve these issues, such as by conducting regular reorientations in using the SERP-P content management system (CMS).

In 2018 alone, Siar and Aberilla visited and conducted reorientations for 12 SERP-P partner-institutions.

These institutions include the Asian Institute of Management Rizalino S. Navarro Policy Center for Competitiveness (AIM RSN PCC), GIZ Philippines, Philippine Statistics Authority, University of the Philippines (UP) National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), De La Salle University (DLSU) Social Development Research Center, DLSU University Research Coordination Office, Foreign Service Institute (FSI), UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies, UP School of Economics, Philippine Exporters Confederation, and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education



(L-R) Luisa Gelisan (University of the Philippines-Open University), Patrick Salamat (National Economic and Development Authority), Josephine Santiago (Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines) speak about the potentials and challenges of using digital media in research dissemination during the 5th Network Biennial Meeting of the Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) Project.

Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH).

Meanwhile, to address the low level of awareness of the benefits of SERP-P among its intended users, additional SERP-P promotional programs were introduced.

Included in this awareness program were a video posted on the PIDS and SERP-P social media pages and a poster distributed among partner-institutions.

The SERP-P team also conducted other activities, such as the continuous production of the *SERP-P News* and *SERP-P Monthly*, and the active presence of SERP-P on social media through its Facebook account.

In November 2018, the SERP-P team also visited the Polytechnic University of the Philippines Manila to introduce the SERP-P project.

### Gearing up for Industry 4.0

Resource speakers were also invited to talk about innovations in digital technology and related issues to aid the partner-institutions in gearing up for Industry 4.0.

Luisa Gelisan, director of UP Open University Multimedia Center, focused on massive open distance e-learning (MODEL), UP's official platform for massive open online courses.

Discussing the evolution and development of MODEL, Gelisan noted that innovations in this area were influenced by the changing learning environment and needs, characteristics, and circumstances of the learners.

The use of MODEL, she said, has widened the university's reach especially outside the country.

Meanwhile, Patrick Salamat, former communications director at the Department of Education and currently consultant at NEDA, shared tips on how to use social media for knowledge dissemination.

He encouraged the participants to maximize the use of social media in reaching their audiences, in amplifying other communication channels, and in gathering feedback.

For her part, Josephine Santiago, director-general of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP), discussed issues on intellectual property, which have become increasingly complex under Industry 4.0.

A presentation on other PIDS initiatives in knowledge dissemination was also held during the lunch break.

Aubrey Tabuga, Blesila Datu Mondez, and Arkin Arboneda from the PIDS Research Department conducted a demo

on the use of the Economic and Social Database and the geographic information system-based Philippine Socioeconomic Profile Database.

PIDS Librarian Clarissa Lagoras also talked about the PIDS Corners, another knowledge dissemination strategy of the Institute.

Launched in 2006, PIDS Corner aims to make PIDS knowledge materials accessible at the local and community levels, especially in areas outside of Metro Manila, which may have limited access to socioeconomic references.

There are currently 25 PIDS Corners across the country.

**Toward SERP-P 4.0**

In the afternoon, the SERP-P coordinators got the opportunity to report on their SERP-P-related accomplishments and activities.

Ten partner-institutions reported on the publications they contributed to SERP-P as well as their promotional activities related to SERP-P.

Some of them announced possible research collaborations with their fellow partners.

An interactive workshop followed. Divided into four groups, participants brainstormed on ways to enhance the SERP-P database, encourage more people to use SERP-P, and strengthen the collaboration among the partner-institutions.

Recurring suggestions to enhance the SERP-P database were to have an information kit with a guide on how to navigate the CMS and improve the search filtering feature of the website.

Recommendations also revolved around the need to improve the website analytics, provide a comment section or suggestion box for each material where users can post their feedback, and create a SERP-P mobile application.

On the need to encourage more people to use SERP-P, participants suggested the continuous use of social media and the participation of partner-institutions in the promotion of the SERP-P project in their respective institutions and networks.

To strengthen the partnership among the network members, participants also suggested having a Facebook group for a more regular and frequent communication and the conduct of the SERP-P meeting annually instead of every two years with the hosting of the venue to be rotated among the partner-institutions.

They also suggested promoting greater collaboration through the conduct of joint projects and activities.



SERP-P network members present their recommendations to enhance the SERP-P database and to encourage participation and collaboration in the network. Shown in the photo are participants from (L-R) Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, University of the Philippines - Center for Integrative and Development Studies, and Action For Economic Reforms.

**Higher educ... from p. 4**

“We are developing and testing innovative instructional materials and sharing these with other colleges and universities through cooperative programs,” Gelisan explained.

With the theme, “Gearing Up for SERP-P 4.0”, the biennial meeting aimed to strengthen the SERP-P partnership and network in knowledge exchange and promote the open access agenda. At least 39 member-institutions were present during the one-day event.

**RGV, CPSD**

**Implementation issues... from p. 7**

on basic government accountability mechanisms and procedures.

It should also improve its internal communication system, as well as its communication and exchange with all stakeholders.

Brillantes also urged CHED to request for plantilla positions from the Department of Budget and Management to augment its human resource requirements. **GBDC**

**Gender concerns... from p. 10**

Gender equality and women empowerment is a global target under SDG 5. Although highlighted as a specific target, gender concerns are also relevant to other goals.

**Local gender projects face problems, too**

In the Philippines, various laws and policies have been enacted to empower women and promote gender equality, including the Magna Carta for Women, Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act, and the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act.

**SERP-P gears... from p. 13**

Philippine Institute for Development Studies Vice President Marife Ballesteros (leftmost) and Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) Project Manager Sheila Siar (rightmost) award plaques of recognition to the most active SERP-P partner-institutions.

At the end of the meeting, 10 partner-institutions were given plaques of recognition for being the most active SERP-P members from 2017 to 2018.

The awardees were Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture, Philippine Council

for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development, GIZ Philippines, UP Los Baños Center for Strategic Planning and Policy Studies, AIM RSN PCC, UP NCPAG, FSI, SEAMEO INNOTECH, and the Congressional Planning and Budget Research Department of the House of Representatives. **JOA**

Mainstreaming gender and development (GAD) is likewise a priority strategy under the *Philippine Development Plan*. Per Executive Order 273, all government agencies are required to allot 5 percent of their total budget to GAD activities.

However, lack of compliance to the said GAD budget policy and its full integration in the planning and budgeting system of the government remains a major bottleneck to the achievement of gender equality in the country.

According to the *2017 Human Development Report* of the United Nations Development Programme, the Philippines' gender development index remains low, ranking 97th out of 160 countries worldwide.

The 4th International Symposium on Asian Development Studies with the theme “Development Cooperation in ASEAN” was jointly organized by PIDS and the Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation. **MJLS**

## Research Digests

PIDS RPS 2018-04

### **Sustainable Development Goal 5: How Does the Philippines Fare on Gender Equality?**

by *Clarissa C. David, Jose Ramon G. Albert, and Jana Flor V. Vizmanos*

This paper discusses how the country fares in several gender and gender-related indicators that can be used to monitor progress toward gender equality and women empowerment. It provides an overview of the current situation in areas such as equality of human capabilities, equality of economic opportunity, equality in political voice and leadership, and the safety of women and girls. The paper also identifies priorities for public policy while seeking new directions in a number of transformational issues to attain gender equality and women empowerment in the country.

PIDS RPS 2018-03

### **The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program After 30 Years: Accomplishments and Forward Options**

by *Marife M. Ballesteros, Jenica A. Ancheta, and Tatum P. Ramos*

This study evaluates the performance of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in the last 30 years using the program's theory of change. Among others, the study notes that while there is weak evidence of overpricing of the land acquired by the government, the delay in CARP implementation is expected to increase the cost of land acquisition due to increased land/zonal land prices as a result of urbanization in the countryside. It recommends to government to focus on the provision of support programs to modernize agriculture benefitting small farmers, i.e., scaling up promising arrangements such as agrarian reform communities, block farming, and agribusiness venture arrangements.

PN 2018-19

### **The Philippine Electric Power Industry Under EPIRA**

by *Arlan Z.I. Brucal and Jenica A. Ancheta*

This *Policy Note* revisits the achievements and concerns regarding the implementation of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) in the country. It finds that the supply of electricity has been adequate to ensure consumers' continuous access to electricity since the passage of EPIRA. The country has also seen a generally declining electric price since its implementation. However, the study also noted that the government failed to eliminate cross-subsidization and create a competitive electricity retail sector. With these concerns, it recommends a number of measures that should be in place to sustain the progress under EPIRA and promote more competitive power supply and retail rates for all consumers.

PN 2018-13

### **Duration of Export Relationships of Philippine MSMEs**

by *Mark Edison Q. Bautista and George N. Manzano*

This *Policy Note* finds that only 6 in every 10 Philippine micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in export trade manage to survive after their first year of operation outside the Philippines. This figure further dwindles to less than 4 in every 10 by the end of their fourth year. This study likewise finds that, on the average, the fourth year is critical in the trade duration, where the average decrease in survival rate is lowest. Given the findings, it urges the government to extend support to Philippine MSMEs that export products to ASEAN countries and other trade partners, especially during the identified critical years of export survivability.

DP 2018-49

### **Senior High School and the Labor Market: Perspectives of Grade 12 Students and Human Resource Officers**

by *Aniceto C. Orbeta Jr., Marites B. Lagarto, Ma. Kristina P. Ortiz, Danica A.P. Ortiz, and Maropsil V. Potestad*

The enactment of Republic Act 10533, or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013, added two years to basic education. One of the rationales offered by proponents of the law is that Senior High School (SHS) graduates can work or engage in entrepreneurial activities if they choose to do so. This study assesses the likelihood of achieving the employment and entrepreneurship objectives of the program by examining the experience of Grade 12 graduating students and the views of firms about the labor market prospects of the SHS graduates. The study reveals that despite identifying employment and entrepreneurship as a rationale for the program, three-quarters of the Grade 12 students plan to proceed to higher education. The firm also lack in-depth knowledge of the SHS program.

DP 2018-43

### **Are We Missing Out on the Demographic Dividend? Trends and Prospects**

by *Michael R.M. Abrigo, Rachel H. Racelis, J.M. Ian S. Salas, Alejandro N. Herrin, Danica A. P. Ortiz, and Zhandra C. Tam*

This paper documents the country's historical experience of the so-called demographic dividend using new National Transfer Account time-series estimates for the Philippines. The estimates are used to simulate how the interaction between public policy and population ageing may affect household welfare and fiscal balance in the foreseeable future.

*Editor's ... from p. 1*

The banner article zeroes in on the open access movement in the Philippines in relation to education and research. During the fifth biennial meeting of the Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P), PIDS President Celia Reyes expressed her concern regarding the limited number of institutions promoting the open access movement, despite its relevance in the crafting of transformative policies and programs in the country. With this issue at hand, she encouraged everyone to explore how FIRE technologies can make educational and research materials more effective and accessible to the public. During the event, both PIDS and the University of the Philippines Open University also committed to assist research and other higher education institutions in utilizing digital technology and social media to advance open access of their materials.

The second article, meanwhile, revisits one of the perennial problems in the country's education

sector—its poor innovation capacity. During a forum jointly organized by PIDS, the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), and the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, AIM President Jikyeong Kang underscored the critical importance of reforms in our education system to be responsive to the needs of 21st century learners. Educational innovations that leverage technology, according to Kang, can help enhance both the content and delivery of education.

On the other hand, the third article highlights the country's hazy copyright policy on works generated using artificial intelligence. Given the importance of protecting intellectual property to the country's economy, this signals the need for further studies and research on this subject.

This DRN also uncovers the implementation issues of the K to 12 program, one of the government's flagship programs for human capital development involving the use of technology. According to a PIDS study, issues, such as the inadequate preparation of the program implementers, as well as the

program's inadequate record-keeping system and lack of an automated system for processing applications, have hampered the country's smooth transition to the K to 12 program. Sadly, these may also have a direct impact on the country's preparation for FIRE, especially that this revolution requires us to prepare our workforce for an increasingly knowledge-driven and technology-intensive economy.

Completing this issue are articles on developed countries' attempt to relabel their development aid as climate relevant and the lack of focus of the official development assistance of Japan and South Korea on gender and women empowerment in the region.

As stated earlier, PIDS also held the fifth biennial meeting of SERP-P during the last quarter of 2018. With the theme "Gearing up for SERP-P 4.0", the meeting aimed to strengthen the SERP-P network and promote the open access movement among its partner-institutions. Highlights of this event are also presented in this DRN issue. **DRN**

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