PLENARY SESSION: PA AND DEVELOPMENT

CSC Toward A Transformed Philippine Bureaucracy

HON. FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Chairman, Civil Service Commission

Civil Service Commission Chairman Francisco T. Duque III commended the UP-NCPAG on the occasion of its 60th anniversary for taking a lead in advancing sound public administration and good governance in the Philippine bureaucracy.

He emphasized that the Philippine Civil Service has had a rich reform history dating back from the colonial period to the present that has changed the public administration landscape. The Civil Service Commission (CSC), as the central human resource agency of the government has made remarkable strides in reviewing the structure, processes, policies and programs in the public sector toward a more effective and efficient bureaucracy. It envisions itself as the Asia’s leading center of excellence for strategic human resource and organization development.

Chairman Duque shared the Agency’s major accomplishments that highlight the strategies and breakthroughs it initiated to include the adoption of Performance Governance System (PGS), which is a performance management and measurement tool geared to ensure professionalism in the bureaucracy. Other strategies and breakthroughs include decentralization of Human Resource Management functions, paradigm shift from excessive regulation to simplified transaction using the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007 (ARTA Law), tightening of recruitment and selection standards, greater focus on human resources, legal empowerment, and participative governance using public assistance and complaints desks in all offices of the CSC.

The Academic as Social Activist: The Role of Civil Society in National Development: Focus on Social Watch Philippines

PROF. LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES
Professor (Ret.), UP NCPAG and Convenor
Social Watch Philippines

Former NCPAG Dean Leonor Magtolis Briones recalled that since the 1980s, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have played an increasing role in shaping the country and the world in general, in terms of human rights, economic and national development. She explained that the success of CSOs can be attributed to its unique role as a critic and partner of the government at the same time. CSOs have the ability to bridge the gap between the market and state by representing the grassroots. CSOs have also a clear manifestation of Filipinos’ traditional community practice of citizen participation, which is distinctly recognized in the 1987 Constitution. She relates this practice to the thrusts and advocacies of her organization, Social Watch Philippines, of which she is Lead Convenor.

She concluded with the statement, “a public administrationist cannot be whole unless he or she is steeped in theory and practice”. Finally, she posed a challenge “tuwirin ang baluktot na daan” to bring genuine and lasting reforms.

Metrics and Maps: Effective Tools for Public Governance

DR. J.R. NEREUS ACOSTA
Presidential Adviser on Environmental Concerns

Presidential Adviser on Environmental Concerns Dr. J.R. Nerues Acosta highlighted the importance of ecological governance for managing a balanced economy and ecology toward sustainability. The present environmental challenges that the country is facing today can only be addressed by adopting ecological governance as a framework for development including the use of metrics and maps as effective tools for public governance.

Dr. Acosta emphasized that the term ecology is about environment interacting with population, demographic realities, technology and governance. It is also the managing of resources and
institutional arrangements that need to be in place. Even local governments are pushing for ecological governance for the enforcement and proper implementation of environmental laws that sustain the country’s life support. “What nurtures us is our ecology”. He emphasized that "The campaign on “Tuwid na Daan” should also be “Tuwid na Daan Sa Munting Luntian”.

The massive devastation of the country’s remaining forests made the present administration advocates the slogan - “no forests, no watersheds; no watersheds, no water; no water, no rice; no rice, no food; no water, no energy; no energy, no economy”. This is why, he added, “economy is the subsidiary of ecology”.

The use of metrics and maps, according to Acosta, are important mechanisms in public management to be able to see how best the country can move forward based on clear, scientifically sound and empirically based data. By using these tools, the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) can work closely with other agencies, like the departments of national defense, health, education, environment and interior and local government to maximize the use of geo hazard maps and sophisticated satellite images, not only for environmental planning and land use but also, for tax planning and other monitoring activities.

The thrust of the present administration is moving towards putting in place across all government agencies the need for real metrics whether for environmental sustainability or vulnerability, risk assessment, inventory of coastal resource or land use, among others. The NAMRIA needs to work closely with other agencies like DND, DOH, DepEd and DILG and not only with the DENR. By using metrics and maps, the present administration will be able to see the best way for the country to move forward based on clear, scientifically sound and empirically based data. And with that, also the clarity of our maps (whether the geo hazards map or the most sophisticated satellite images) which also can function beyond just environmental planning and land use. Such concerns can also be used even for tax planning, for voting and for other uses.

The greater challenge is for government to have a clear understanding of what must be measured to manage properly. Further, agencies and local governments can be held accountable based on fundamentally uniform and sound empirically based data sets.

**Developing a Culture of Risk Reduction, not Culture of Response: Climate Change Adaptation and Practices of Albay**

GOVERNOR JOEY SARTE SALCEDA  
Climate Change Academy  
Province of Albay, Philippines

Governor Salceda of Albay underscored social justice as the foundation of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DDR/CCA) as he pointed out the rippling effect of poverty on vulnerability to natural calamities and the importance of investing on the people. Further, he declared “Disasters kill poor people, make the poor poorer and breed more poor people. Thus, it is plain murder of the innocent and constitutes a moral failure”.

Governor Salceda illustrated the dynamics of poverty and vulnerability vis-à-vis education and resiliency alongside risk reduction and development. He called Albay as the “Vatican of disasters” for its high risk and vulnerability to natural disasters. Despite this fact, Albay remains to be resilient. He attributed to employment of adaptation strategies and sound programs and policies, forging of partnerships to mobilize resources, and sustained work for a “safe and shared development”.

**Building a Philippine-Centered Civil Society Scholarship that Strengthens the Philippine Nation**

DR. RALPH S. BROWER  
Associate Professor, Florida State University

Dr. Ralph Brower shared his view on how indigenous scholarship can advance Philippine democracy. He considered this problematic since Philippine civil society scholars and practitioners are exposed to
Western-dominated literature. He emphasized that there is a need for Philippine-centered models and theories for the country's own consumption and reference.

He shared his observation on how Filipinos extremely value education and the pragmatic goal of leading children to good jobs. The challenge lies in liberating the education system from profiteering and other market forces. He further noted that "Philippine civil society is where ideas, movements, and causes are hatched and cultivated – and so its relevant scholarship is central to a civic-minded, democratic Philippine future". Finally, the need to develop models that actually work in the Philippine civil society is fundamental to serve as guide for society practitioners that truly fit the Philippine context.

**PANEL 2 – A ECOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND PUBLIC POLICY**

**Best Practices in Climate Change Adaptation**

HON. MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO  
1ST District, Western Samar  
House of Representatives

Represented by:  
MR. JEREMY T. NISHIMORI  
League of Cities of the Philippines

Before reading the substantial part of the paper, Mr. Jeremy Nishimori stated why Cong. Mel Senen Sarmiento had to beg off from attending the conference. Sarmiento attended a meeting in Geneva as one of his functions as the parliamentarian representative of the Philippines to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). This role has allowed him to influence 16 other colleagues in the House of Representatives to support Climate Change advocacies by rallying for the adoption of the Peoples’ Survival Fund and making disaster risk reduction (DRR) funds more local government-friendly.

Plotting the disaster risks against the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Sarmiento said that climate change magnifies risks brought by disasters and this hampers the achievement of development. According to him, climate change poses threats to food security as a result of decreasing crop yields. Climate change also adversely affects infrastructure and labor productivity, which may lead to reduced economic growth and increasing poverty. These threaten the achievement of MDG 1 which aims to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. He also noted that disasters lead to loss of livelihood and assets and displacement and migration, which in turn, lead to reduced access to education opportunities, thus hampering the achievement of MDG 2 that aims to achieve universal primary education. Disasters also result in declining quality of drinking water, increased incidence of diseases, and increasing mortality, and these threaten MDGs 4, 5, 6 and 7.

The above is an affirmation that climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are inseparable and both have adverse effects on development. Thus, the paper cited one of the recommendations of the 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, which is to integrate frameworks on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Based on the Philippine experience, Sarmiento identified reasons why integration of these frameworks is beneficial: policy coherence, easing the burden of programming development assistance, minimizing the duplication of efforts and redundancies, reducing potential conflicts in policy development, making efficient use of scarce resources, and increasing recognition of the little practical difference between the two, particularly at the community level.

Nonetheless, Sarmiento acknowledged that such frameworks integration is not without challenge. These barriers, which are observed particularly in Asian countries, include significant capacity constraints, weak coordination between levels of government, poor communication between governments and local communities, lack of political will, funding gaps, and low levels of expertise and know-how. Another barrier is the difficulty in quantifying disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation benefits in economic terms. For Sarmiento, quantifying the benefits is a way to promote disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and justifying the edge of the two over the old disaster response framework.
While identifying these challenges, Sarmiento also offered approaches to facilitate the integration of the two frameworks. These approaches include improving access to practical weather and climate change information, efficient communication and coordination of development actors, promoting communication in the vernacular in local communities, stronger enabling environment as a function of the national government, establishing rapport with communities and community leaders, providing information support for decision-making; conducting rigorous economic studies and advice; funding government agencies sufficiently, giving emphasis on bottom-up approaches (such as ecosystem-based community projects), and promoting people-centered strategies. Sarmiento also noted the importance of a self-assessment tool so that local governments can determine their status relative to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Issues, Problems and Challenges related to Climate Change Governance in the Philippines: A Policy Science Approach

DEAN ANTONIO G.M. LA VINA, JSD
Ateneo School of Government
Ateneo de Manila University

Dean Tony La Vina, as a major actor and proponent of climate change both in the national and international scene, shared that his presentation is based on his study of Climate Change Governance utilizing the Policy Science Approach. He, however, offered a caveat that during the time he started his study in 1991, there was a limited number of literature on the subject. He offered not to criticize the development of the study as he would also criticize his own work and advocacy; rather he gave a critique on the People's Survival Fund (PSF). Focusing on climate change governance, or governance in general, even with the existence of proper laws, policy, framework and approach, he found implementation and the institutions as challenges on how these will be put into operation.

On policy science approach, he stated the distinction between policy and reality - and the operation - as a myth. He maintained that the approach is always conscious of the dichotomy of the two emphasizing the goal of governance actors in bridging the gap between myth and the operational goal. In applying the approach, he cited the resulting agreements of international discussions such as in Durban, Bali and Copenhagen and the recently concluded one in Rio were only good in the document or in principles but the real world of politics does not provide for the real compromise or agreement. As a realization and continuing goal is not to isolate climate change per se from other concerns such as forests and carbon reduction similar to that of adaptation and mitigation resulting in a quid pro quo agreement. He kept his position as a negotiator and not an academic that the key to a successful intervention is to break down the negotiation to negotiable parts. On the national scene, he confirmed that the Philippines has the best set of laws in the world on climate change citing the Climate Change Act, the Disaster Risk Reduction Act, National Framework on Climate Change and the People’s Survival Fund (PSF). He is hopeful though that the PSF will augment the financial constraints of the earlier laws. But the real gap in the approach is the human resource and institutional gap.

To circumspect, he posed to do an institutional analysis of the circumstances including the framework placing the President at the helm of the Climate Change Commission. It is also imperative to prioritize between adaptation and mitigation, the former as the myth and the latter the reality.

Financing Adaptation in the Philippines: The People’s Survival Fund and Weather Index Based (WII) Insurance

MS. KALAYAAN PULIDO-CONSTANTINO
OXFAM Philippines

Citing that the Philippines is 10th in terms of countries most affected by climate change (based on Global Climate Risk Index 2011), Ms. Kalayaan Pulido-Constantino said that adaptation finance is an urgent priority in the country. Thus, the presentation covered two important mechanisms in climate change adaptation funding: the People’s Survival Fund and the Weather Index Based Insurance.
Pulido-Constantino’s presentation on the People’s Survival Fund is based on a July 2010 report by the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities and the Oxfam with the title “Financing Adaptation or Financing Chaos? Adaptation, Finance and Philippine Climate Policy.” The report indicated that the scale of funding is not enough and that more funds are allotted to mitigation rather than adaptation. Funding also comes in the form of loans and less comes from grants. Constantino maintained that funding must be in the form of grants from developing countries, not as aids or loans, based on the “polluter pays” principle as they are the main cause of why climate change occurred. Another issue pointed out in the report is that funds, small as they may be, come uncoordinated and fragmented, as there is no comprehensive and coherent national plan available. There is also no participation of CSOs and vulnerable groups in adaptation finance. Given these issues, the report noted that it is important for the country to have ownership and leadership in the governance of adaptation finance. It also emphasized the importance of ensuring accountability through meaningful participation and reaching out to vulnerable groups, especially women.

Recognizing the very importance of financing climate change adaptation, the report recommended the establishment of a People’s Survival Fund (PSF). The PSF is complementary or additional to the national budget and is intended to be a major source of adaptation funding. It is proposed to be a “rewards” fund for communities that are at the forefront of climate change adaptation. Currently, a policy creating the PSF has already been passed by the Philippines Congress and is awaiting approval of President Aquino.

The second part of Pulido-Constantino’s presentation focused on the Weather Index Based (WII) Insurance based on “Braving the uncertainties of weather: Weather Index Based Insurance as Agricultural Risk Transfer Mechanisms for Climate Change Adaptation and Risk Reduction in the Philippines,” a draft Policy Brief by Oxfam, Climate Change Commission (CCC), Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (iCSC). The WII is seen as an innovative adaptation-financing scheme in the agriculture sector – an insurance product that compensates damages.

The WII is supported by organizations including the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), International Labor Organization (ILO), Microensure Philippines, and CLIMBS General Life Insurance Cooperative (in partnership with GIZ, Munich Re, and DHI). However, these financing platforms also faces challenges such as affordability and market barriers (such as farmers’ capacity and willingness to pay), technical barriers (such as availability of weather stations, operational barriers (accessibility of farmers, reaching the majority of them), and lack of appropriate WII schemes for marginal fisherfolks and women. In order to address these challenges and sustain the financing facility, the (draft) report recommends the following: enhancement of a regulatory framework for WII; enabling a policy environment for the private sector to participate, invest and further develop the scheme; government investments to reduce insurance premiums; and emphasizing the role of LGUs in the process.

**Climate Change and Local Governance in Sorsogon City**

MR. TITO FORTES
City Climate Change Project Office
Sorsogon City, Philippines

Sharing the experience and strategies of Sorsogon City in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, Mr. Tito Fortes’ showed the important roles cities and local governments play in protecting their constituencies. For Sorsogon City, it can never be “business as usual” because climate change has also changed the ways the officials of the city think, plan and do things.

Acknowledging that the city initially lacked knowledge about climate change, Mr. Fortes reported that Sorsogon City was able to mobilize partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally to address such gaps in knowledge. Through these partnerships, the city is gradually seeing success in its disaster risk reduction and resiliency efforts.

By identifying who will be the most affected by the effects of climate change, how they will be affected, and what resources are needed to address the problem, and by acknowledging that “climate change threats put at risk our natural and built environment as well as our economic base,” the city is able to determine its strategies and the programs it needed to pursue.
After a multi-stakeholder city consultation, Sorsogon City came up with the formation of Issue Working Groups or IWGs, which focused on specific issues of concern. Through the IWGs, Sorsogon City set its priority actions and programs. The programs and actions (which focused on both adaptation and mitigation) implemented by the city include: going over the city’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) leading to the formulation of four policy zones (1. Coastal/Built up/Hazard prone, 2. Inland/Agricultural/Low risk, 3. Upland/Agri-forest/Medium risk, 4. Upland/Protected forest/High risk); program on Livelihood and Economic Development which focused on skills development for climate sensitive livelihoods and local economic development in the context of climate change in partnership with the TESDA; retrofitting of a school that can be used as an evacuation center (called the Schools Mitigating and Adapting to Risk and Threats or SMART schools); acquisition of an Automatic Weather Station, a grant through a partnership with PAGASA; improving housing structures of the poor, water and sanitation; and enjoining all tertiary schools in Sorsogon City to integrate climate change knowledge and concepts in their curricular and non-curricular activities.

Although the city has already done much in terms of climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency, it never stops to do things in this enterprise as it plans to replicate its successful programs, construct a new slaughterhouse away from the coastal area, amend policies and ordinances on zoning, among others.

Fortes also shared the important lessons they learned from their experience. Among these are development planning using a participatory approach, testing of doable actions through demonstration projects based on village level assessments, formulation of policy and development frameworks based on knowledge gained, practicing the “learning by doing” approach, and capacity and asset development.

PANEL 2 – B PUBLIC SECTOR REFORMS AND INNOVATIONS


MR. ROBIN MICHAEL U. GARCIA
Department of Political Science and Development Studies
De La University

Robin Michael Garcia asserted that cultural co-optation effected neoliberal economic policies in post-Cold War Philippines. The West has been able to motivate and influence the policies represented by the Ramos Administration’s Philippines 2000 through the successful cultural co-optation of Philippine policy elites, thus, enabled and facilitated by post-Cold War neoliberal economic globalization.

The end of the Cold War, according to Mr. Garcia, had a legitimizing effect on the West’s concept of development, which translated into the Philippines 2000 policy of deregulation, liberalization and privatization. There is a need, however, to go beyond the argument that these policies were brought about simply by the Philippines’ need for development capital, which came with the conditionalities imposed by international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Using the politico-cultural perspective and proponent-receiver analysis, Mr. Garcia showed that “high cultural interactions in soft institutional avenues” managed the transplantation of neoliberal economic values on the policy elites, which, in turn, consolidated in the state the role of policymaking. He cited examples US-educated President Fidel Ramos himself and other similarly trained technocrats.

Approaches to Labor Market Governance in the Philippines

JONATHAN P. SALE
Dean, School of Labor and Industrial Relations
UP Diliman

Competitive model dominates labor market governance in the Philippines – a statement that generally describes the prevailing labor situation in the country according to Dean Sale. Collaborative governance appears to be the appropriate approach to labor market governance in the Philippines.
and other Asian societies, but empirical evidence shows that competitive governance is more evident, according to Dean Sale.

Dr. Sale explained that the collaborative approach, which entails the putting up of mechanisms to enable stakeholders to exchange information, harmonize activities, share resources and enhance capacities, is an alternative to the competitive method, which he likened to the Tiebout model of local provision of public goods. In Philippine public policy, there is also a shift from centralized government control in labor market governance to forms of working together.

His examination of labor statistics across 17 regions in the Philippines—including labor force, employment rate, labor standards cases filed, union membership, workers covered by collective bargaining agreements, big and small enterprises, minimum non-agriculture wage rate, average daily basic pay—however, pointed to the prevalence of competitive governance in labor market governance. According to Dr. Sale, the location of big enterprises in the National Capital Region, CALABARZON, Central Visayas and Davao Region is correlated with the small differential between average daily basic pay and non-agriculture minimum wage. That the same regions also have the highest union memberships, CBA coverage and labor standards cases filed implies that the unions and CBAs have not significantly influenced average daily basic pay. Meanwhile, small enterprises operate in the other regions. Dr. Sale set these results in the context of the Tiebout model, with the enterprises choosing the communities which satisfy their preference patterns.

**Public Sector Reform and the Agendas of Good Governance: Lessons in Times of Adversity**

Dr. Danilo R. Reyes
Professor
National College of Public Administration and Governance
University of the Philippines

Public sector reform agenda were generally brought about by crises and adversities, and the continuing economic downturn in recent years prompts a review of the lessons that can be derived from the reforms prescribed in response to past crises, as Dr. Danilo Reyes argued in his presentation of the paper, “Public Sector Reform and the Agenda of Good Governance.”

Referred to as public sector reform, public service reform, public administration reform, administrative reform, civil service reform or bureaucratic reform, reform movements are aimed at making public institutions accountable, responsive and representative of the public interest, aside from being efficient, effective and economical. To illustrate this, Dr. Reyes presented a survey of these reform initiatives: the development of the civil service in Europe, the Wilsonian tradition of the politics-administration dichotomy, the POSDCORB proposition, the New Public Administration and the “market-based public administration.”

With his examination of past reform agendas, Dr. Reyes drew out the following lessons: Reform measures have to be tailored for the specific conditions and cultures where they shall be applied and have to be expressed as “doable policies.” They should also take note of the human resource competencies, the import of technology and innovation, and the involvement of citizens. There is also a need for careful study on the appropriate balance between regulation and deregulation.

**Urban Transport Reforms in Asian Megacities**

Dr. Noriel Christopher C. Tiglao
Associate Professor
National College of Public Administration and Governance
University of the Philippines

In his presentation titled “Urban Transport Reforms in Asian Megacities,” Dr. Noriel Christopher C. Tiglao presented a survey on the special characteristics of Asian megacities and their implications for transport policies. Based on these conditions, he examined the issues concerning institutions in urban governance and funding and financing.
Unlike the experience of other countries while at the same level of development, Asian megacities have special characteristics, making their problems in urban transport distinct, including a high urban bias and higher urban density, rapid economic and population growth rates, rapid motorization and widespread use of paratransit and motorcycles, inadequate infrastructure, weak land-use control and absence of metropolitan-wide governance systems. These characteristics translate into a need for: large-scale transport, multimodal transport system, space efficiency and means to address congestion, funding sources and solutions and institutional reforms.

In Asia, urban governance is the most challenging policy issue, and given that transport transcends city boundaries, the question of how to make coordination among jurisdictions effective and what governance approach to adopt for megacities become important, explained Dr. Tiglao. He noted the need for a mix between plan-guided and market-driven approaches to urban governance and for plans that apply not to specific local governments but across boundaries. Dr. Tiglao also pointed out that socio-economic benefits of urban transport projects should be considered in project appraisals and subsidies that yield inefficiencies should now be viewed differently.

PANEL 2 – C CITIZENSHIP AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

*Principled Dissent in State Universities*

JIOLITO L. BENITEZ, DR. ROSELLE J. RANARIO, DR. FLORIZA N. LAPLAP, AND MARICOR MORILLO

Dr. Roselle J. Ranario clarified that the study explored the engagement of employees of five State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in Cebu in “principled organized dissent” (POD) and verified whether manifestations of POD by SUC administrators differ from those of non-administrators. She explained that POD forms part of “organizational citizenship behavior” which refers to the capacity of employees to exert efforts that go beyond their formal job requirement to contribute to the effective functioning of the organization, and which may be reflective of their civic virtue, courtesy, conscientiousness, altruism, as well as sportsmanship. She also discussed the four modes of POD, namely, internal-stay, internal-leave, external-stay, and external-leave.

The study investigated instances of POD by examining cases filed in the Civil Service Commission, the Ombudsman, and SUCs, and by using a researcher-modified tool based on relevant literature. In the course of the study, they discovered that not all SUCs established grievance committees or appointed a resident Ombudsman.

The research found that SUC employees engage in POD, preferring internal modes; however, unlike administrators, non-administrators think that POD can lead to reprisal or antagonism and loss of promotion. Both classification of respondents agree that POD can promote a clear conscience; protect public interest; prevent harm; push management to act; improve ethical climate; and lead to termination or transfer. Likewise, they agree that POD is constrained by the required time and effort and the need for social approval, and thus plans to pursue POD must be consulted with the family, friends, and other important people.

Given these findings, Dr. Ranario concluded that there are indeed PODs in SUCs and that the readiness of SUC employees to renounce wrongdoings demonstrates their love of country, dedication to work, healthy ethical climate, and social responsibility.

In the open forum, Dr. Erwin Alampay asked Dr. Ranario to differentiate between unprincipled dissent and POD, to which she replied that the latter is positive in nature, though this may affect personal relationships negatively, and explained that POD may be considered as whistleblowing in government parlance.

Ms. Bernadette Dela Cuesta of the House of Representatives asked Dr. Ranario to recommend how POD can be pursued in the institutional setting, to which she proposed the creation of grievance committees and appointment of a Resident Ombudsman. She also posited the same answer on how POD can be done in private schools. An observation given was that POD may not prosper given the value of Filipinos to save face.
Exploratory Journey in Search of an Urban Planning Theory in Understanding Civil Society Organizations in a Third World City (Iloilo City)

RHODELLA A. IBABAO  
Department of Management  
College of Management  
University of the Philippines Visayas  
Iloilo City

Ms. Ibabao discussed the search for a relevant planning model to capture the experience of the civil society organizations (CSOs) in Iloilo City. She identified insurgent planning or radical planning model combined with co-production (of which the author refers to the combination as hybrid practices) as the blend used to understand Iloilo City CSOs engagement. Using an ethnographic qualitative case study, Ms. Ibabao analyzed the experience of the Homeless People’s Federation of the Philippines (HPFI) in its engagement with the State to pursue its activities.

Ms. Ibabao found that using a combination of formal and informal collaboration with the State in order to feel their participation from the city yields more support from network and alliances. Ms. Ibabao added that it is not helpful for civil society organizations to be recognized as insurgent as it brings forth a negative identity on CSOs per se.

Enduring Tradition Helps Modern Governance

AKIO KAMIKO  
Dean, School of Policy Science  
Ritsumeikan University

Dean Akio Kamiko discussed that in the 1870s and 1880s, the Japanese government sought to treat Jichikai (autonomous group) or Chonaikai (neighbourhood group), organized to facilitate the cooperation of the people in rice production, as basic local government units. However, this did not push through since the average population of each group was small at 400. Nonetheless, they survived as informal sub-governmental units, until they were given official roles in the air-raid warning system; police activities against the anti-war movement; assistance in food rationing; and functions as social education facilities, this last role pursuant to Social Education Act of 1949.

He discussed that Iida in Nagano Prefecture, which acquired its city status in 1937, is located between two mountain ranges, has both urban and rural characteristics, and has a population of about 100,000. He stressed that Iida is quite unique given its tightly organized Jichikais and Community Centers, whose role extends from social education to the promotion of community activities. He reported that the city has 21 Community Centers, with 105 Branch Centers organized by the mayor himself, which are subsidized by the city government and managed by local residents.

In his visit in August 2011, he found that government-run local autonomous districts are situated near Community Centers, sharing staff members, thus, residents could not distinguish the differences in their work. Also, since they are partly funded by the government, community centers have a lot of activities; unfortunately, the younger or new residents of the community sometimes see this as unduly burdensome.

Open Forum

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done in private schools. An observation given was that POD may not prosper given the value of Filipinos to save face.

Dr. Ralph S. Brower, Associate Professor, Florida State University, inquired on the methodology used by the author in order to generate data on the field. Ms. Ibabao shared that she looked for the ‘gate keepers’ in the organization in order to get permission to proceed with her study. She cited for instance the necessity of the leader’s permission in a recognized ‘leftist’ organization to gain access to information.

Prof. Brower asked the Dean Komiko on how his group was able to remove the barriers in their field work and on how they were able to filter the usual top-down depictions provided by the organization under study. Dean Kamiko replied that he encountered no difficulty, and asserted that since he only met with government officials or informants referred by the government, he indicated in his research that this was done from the perspective of the government.

Mr. Merwin Salazar, Executive Director, Senate Economic Planning Office, asked whether the study considered comparing the outcomes under two modalities of urban planning: insurgent planning and co-production. Ms. Ibabao responded that she did not have the luxury of time to go about such comparisons. She pointed out, however, that based on her literature review, three authors mentioned that using both models is more beneficial to the community.

Jody Aked, Lead Researcher (Valuing Volunteering Project), VSO Bahaginan, asked if the groups (CSO) under study experienced any difficulties in pursuing co-production with the government. Ms. Ibabao noted that collaboration with the government as well as other organizations particularly funding agencies required the organization to adhere to accountability procedures. She added that co-production also looks at the legitimacy of an organization as a significant basis for state collaboration.

PANEL 2 – D VOLUNTEERISM AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Engaging the Youth for Development: Differences among SK Leaders and their Constituents

Dr. Erwin Gaspar A. Alampay and Ms. Lydia E. Angeles
Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy
UP-NCPAG

Dr. Erwin Alampay presented the result of a pilot study conducted among Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) and non-SK youth of Quezon City. The study looked into the perspective and participation of the youth as citizens. The study included the youth’s definition of the concept of citizenship, the self rating/assessment on their performance with regard good citizenship attributes/activities, and civic engagement among others.

The results showed that SK leaders provide a higher self rating on civic engagement than non-SK youth. SK leaders also give less general definition of the concept of citizenship compared with their non-SK counterparts. The difference between the SK and non-SK views on the practice of citizenship, however, is participation in SK elections.

In conclusion, Dr. Alampay noted that SK leaders’ engagement does not filter to the rest of the youth. Non-SK leader’s low rating in civic engagement suggests the lack of venue for youth involvement. Dr. Alampay added that there is a possibility that the youth engaged in community activities are the ones more likely to get into SK in the future hence, alternative ways of engagement not only with government and policymakers should be made available for the youth.

Well-being Empowers Participation

Ms. Jody Aked
Voluntary Services Organization

Ms. Jody Aked explained that interest in subjective well-being was piqued when it was realized that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) could not measure satisfaction in the 70s, with no less than President
John F. Kennedy commenting that the GDP “measures everything except that which makes life worthwhile.” She clarified that well-being is a state where everything comes together or gets sorted; that is, when the individual has a sense of competency and autonomy and can relate well with others and the environment. She asserted that since the ability to function increases the intellectual and psychological resources of the person, and enables better participation, well-being can then be considered both as an outcome and as a resource.

Ms. Aked stressed that projects can be enhanced by improving people’s subjective well-being. However, she warned that these can also have unintended impacts, such as exacerbating the unequal distribution of psychological and social resources. To illustrate, she shared her experience in the ACER Project in Brazil, where she worked with 650 youth aged 12 to 15 in Eldorado, Diadema. She expressed her belief that these young people were vulnerable, because they come from a neighbourhood stigmatised by high levels of violence and homicide, and which did not trust them and attribute them valued roles.

She discussed the five project principles of the ACER Project and their achievements and concluded that under these principles, the kids realized that they can dream, that they are valued, that trust is built slowly and incrementally, and that they can co-produce solutions to problems in their communities.

In the future, Ms. Aked plans to expand this study through her involvement in a global research project, in partnership with the Center for Leadership and Citizenship Development of UP NCPAG, which will study how and under what conditions volunteering can reduce poverty.

**A Framework for Implementing a Volunteer and Citizenship Program for the Local Government Units: Praxis of Public Administration and Civil Society Relations**

Dr. Maria Faina Lucero-Diola
UP-NCPAG

Dr. Diola provided an extensive presentation on the rationale of Volunteer and Citizenship Program (VCP) in the Philippines citing its legal framework, the Filipino culture and volunteerism, and current situation of CSOs’ share of workforce. She also discussed the concepts of citizenship and neo-republicanism and illustrated how the theory of neo-republicanism can be reflected in the VCP.

Dr. Diola noted that VCP’s main functions include: (1) conduct of research and advocacy; (2) mobilization of resources for volunteering; and (3) giving of awards and recognition. In addition, Dr. Diola mentioned in detail how the elements of neo-republicanism namely public realm, organizing plurality, and action are illustrated in the features of VCP.

Open Forum

Dr. Edwin Martin, Assistant Professor, University of Sto. Tomas, asked whether the study would eventually include other youth groups in the community other than SK members, e.g. NGO youth organizations or church youth organizations to broaden the scope of responses. Dr. Alampay emphasized that the focus of the study was to evaluate the SK. He noted that other information can be harnessed from the data gathered. Dr. Alampay added that he is contemplating on conducting a study involving youth delinquents as respondents.

Ms. Montero, from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), asked if there was a marked difference between the male and female SK/non-SK respondents in the study and if so, why. Dr. Alampay clarified that the study is a work in progress and such information can be derived from the data. Dr. Alampay pointed out that what is being looked into at the moment is the age factor of the respondents in respect to their definition of citizenship and participation in activities.

Ms. Gabriela Alexandra C. Tayag, Faculty member, Manila Tytaa Colleges/ DPA student, UP-NCPAG, asked whether the study took into consideration the youth’s concept of governance as a measure of their participation as government officials instead of merely using the concept of citizenship. Dr. Alampay indicated that the study did not measure citizenship in terms of participation,
rather, it measured citizenship in the concept of civic engagement. The study’s consideration points at civic engagement of participation.

Mr. Armando F. Sibal, from the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), inquired about the impact of ‘pervasive’ Filipino culture (e.g. tayo-tayo, kanya-kanya) on civic engagement and voluntarism. Dr. Alampay mentioned that in respect to SK, only those who will vote for the SK leaders are gathered and encouraged to participate in elections and not everybody thus, reflecting ‘kanya-kanya’.

Dr. Grace Gorospe-Jamon, Professor, UP Political Science and immediate past President, Association of Schools of Public Administration in the Philippines (ASPAP), offered a suggestion to deepen the study of SK for future studies and include the profile, socio-demographics, attitudes and values, and to identify to what extent these factors may have influenced participation. Dr. Alampay appreciated the suggestion but shared that those factors are not his main focus in the study at the moment.