

EDITOR'S NOTES

IN 2005, the mid-decade population census was not carried out, much to the disappointment of demographers, population students, economic planners and just about anybody concerned with the issue of population growth and its impact on national and local development. The Arroyo administration, fresh from the mandate of the previous year's election, failed to provide sufficient funding for such a vital exercise.

This year, however, funding was available. And so, the Philippines had a census in 2007, not a mid-decade census, and not even a mid-year census, as the population count started on August 1, unlike the July 1 start of previous censuses. Let the demographers and population students worry about the relative lack of symmetry and comparability of Philippine Census 2007 with previous censuses, but let us rejoice that a census was carried out at least, even if two years later than anticipated. We should all look forward to the results sometime in 2008 and debate over their implications.

The Philippine Population Association, in its small way, had its own historical first. Upon the initiative of its president, Dr. Connie Gultiano, the PPA held its first scientific conference outside of Manila. On July 28, 2007, the PPA held the National Conference on Life Course Perspective on Population, Nutrition and Health in Cebu City.

One of the presentations in that conference has been transformed into the paper, "Nutrition Transition in the Philippines," by Dr. Ma. Regina A. Pedro, Dr. Corazon VC Barba and Ms. Rhea Benavides-de Leon, which is the lead paper in this year's issue of *Philippine Population Review*. The authors present evidence of dietary changes within the last 25 years, and their findings are alarming. The increased cholesterol and saturated fats in the diets of Filipinos have contributed to the increased prevalence of chronic lifestyle-related diseases, even as the country has not solved the problems of underweight, stunting and micronutrient deficiencies among children, which continue to persist in public health proportions. Thus, the Philippines faces the "double burden" of undernutrition and overnutrition.

Nanette Lee and Dr. Linda S. Adair look at the occupational gender gap among young Filipinos in the labor force. Using data from the 2005 Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey on employed youth in their early 20s, the authors report that occupational gender segregation exists among Filipino youth. This gender segregation is significantly associated with human capital (education and previous work experience), place of residence (whether urban or rural) and job requirements (whether requiring a certain level of education or previous work experience, physical or mental skills, or full-time or not), as well as with wage rate inequality, with women on the negative end of the scale, even after controlling for education.

The social acceptance of homosexuality among Filipino youth is the subject of Christian Joy Cruz and Ruzzel Brian Mallari. The authors make use of qualitative and quantitative data to argue that the level of acceptance by young Filipinos of a homosexual person, along with

his/her homosexual activities, is low, probably as a result of the social stigma that continues to be attached to being a homosexual.

Young adults are again the subject of the fourth paper in this issue. Claire Berja writes of the role of early union in the emergence of multigenerational households. The author makes a distinction among three types of multigenerational households: the first type has a head with children and grandchildren; the second type has a head with children and parents; and type three has a head with children, grandchildren and parents. These multigenerational households appear to be a coping strategy to face poverty resulting from early unions. According to the author, more than one-fifth of young people in her study were living in multigenerational households and more one-third were in early unions.

The paper of Dr. Grace Cruz, on the other hand, focuses on older Filipinos and provides a baseline estimate of their active life expectancy. The study shows that while older Filipino females live longer lives, the quality of their lives leave a lot to be desired as they are more like to be inactive and suffer from increased disability.

Dr. Mercedes B. Concepcion, who served as the first (and only) dean of the University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI), has the institutional memory to write its history. PPR intends this history to be the first in a series of profiles presenting the history and achievement of institutions in the Philippines which are making a significant contribution to the advancement of Philippine population studies.

The last paper consists of selected abstracts of masters theses by graduate students engaged in the study of population and development. We hope that it also becomes the first in a series that would highlight the range of population studies being pursued by our graduate students from various parts of the country.

Lastly, the Philippine Population Association and the PPR would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Philippine Center for Population and Development for providing the funding for the publication of this year's PPR. We are truly grateful.

Happy reading!