

Editors' Notes

The year 2003 has seen the resurgence of population issues as a theme in a number of conferences. Last May, the Philippine Social Science Council organized the National Social Science Conference (NSSC), which focused on the issues confronting the Filipino youth. A month after, the University of the Philippines Alumni Association looked at the population and quality of life during its Council Meeting. We are also pleased to report that even the business sector had joined the chorus for a more serious look at the country's population problem.

In this issue of the PPR, we are featuring some of the papers presented during these conferences. We got three papers from the NSSC which provide an interesting take on adolescent development issues. Dr. Batangan looks at the context of sexual risks among Filipino adolescents. She takes the view that as adolescents undergo a process of sexual socialization, how they shape their concepts of sexuality is rooted in a society's sexual norms. Ms. Villarama, on the other hand, presents an interesting contrast on how different advertising appeals affect adolescent's attitude towards responsible sexual behavior.

A detailed look on the status of adolescent risk taking behaviors is the main focus of the paper of Dr. Raymundo and Ms. Cruz. Based on the 2002 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey, the paper highlights the increasing level of both non-sexual and sexual risks among Filipino adolescents, as well as the connectivity between and among risk behaviors.

We are also pleased to include in this issue a special report on the status of food and nutrition among Filipinos and a commentary on how we view population problems. These were part of the UPAA Council Meeting presentations.

In her report, Dr. Florencio gives an assessment of the government's efforts in pushing for nutrition integration in the development programs. In his commentary, Dr. Tan shows us how differences in perceptions affect the way we view population issues. Dr. Tan proposes a more holistic approach in confronting the population problem, such as the cultural dimensions of reproduction and how these interface with economic, political and religious ideologies.

Finally, the Amended By-Laws of the Association as of November 28, 2002 and resolutions from the UP Alumni Association, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Employers Confederation of the Philippines that highlight the need for population programs and policies are included in this issue.

The Editors