

Human Development Network Foundation 2006 Annual Report

Arsenio M. Balisacan
HDN President, 2006

A. Recognition for the 2005 PHDR, “Peace, Human Security and Human Development in the Philippines”

The 5th PHDR, launched both in Manila and Mindanao in October and November 2005, respectively, immediately generated very strong interest from various stakeholders, including from government and non-government organizations, the academe, and people directly affected by the conflict. Among the various stakeholders and institutions now making use of the Report’s findings for ongoing policy, advocacy and research work are:

- The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
- The Inter-Faith Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines
- Asia Foundation, JICA, and other international funding agencies currently involved in projects on conflict resolution in Mindanao.
- Local NGOs, such as the GZO Peace Institute and the Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC), which wants to ensure that its work has an impact on human development.
- Educational institutions such as the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University. Libraries of state universities and colleges also received printed copies of the Report.

Other concrete indications of its impact include:

1. *Media coverage.* In a span of three months after the October 2005 launching, twenty (20) articles were published in print – 18 in broadsheets - and/or online, featuring the key messages of the 2005 PHDR.
2. *International launch sponsored by UNDP.* The 2005 PHDR was one of the national human development reports selected for international launching by the UNDP HDR Office in New York. At the same time, HDN was invited to present the highlights and key messages of the 2005 PHDR in San Francisco for the Asia Society Event held in May 2006. Emmanuel de Dios, who wrote the theme chapter, represented HDN in the event.
3. *Nomination for the 2007 UNDP Award for Human Development.* An evaluation by the NDHR Unit, UNDP HDRO, New York cited the 2005 PHDR as an excellent report which should be nominated for the 2007 HD awards programme. It described the Report as one which “entails excellent analysis of the relationship

between ‘ideology-based armed conflicts’ in the Philippines and the human security and human development situation in the country as a whole, as well as for specific provinces and population groups.” As such, the UNDP country office nominated the 2005 PHDR for the 2007 UNDP Awards for Human Development in two categories: Excellence in Participation and Capacity Building and Excellence in Policy Analysis and Influence. Results will be known in June of this year.

4. *Nomination for the NAST award.* Two of our colleagues, Josef Yap of PIDS and Emmanuel Esguerra of UPSE, nominated the 2005 PHDR for the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Award, under the category of “Outstanding Book and/or Monograph Awards”. Results will be known in June of this year.

B. Current Project: *Advocacy for the 5th Philippine Human Development Report (PHDR) and Preparatory Activities for the 6th PHDR*

This Project aims to disseminate the key messages of the 5th PHDR, sustain and deepen the discussion on its findings and recommendations, and generate greater and more varied public involvement in the pursuit of peace and human security. A second objective is to undertake preparatory research activities for the 6th PHDR scheduled for 2008.

As regards advocacy for the 2005 PHDR, the following were accomplished during the past year:

1. *Production and Distribution of Policy Notes (PN) and Development Research News (DRN) Issues.* In collaboration with the Philippine Institute of Development Studies, five PNs and three DRN issues were produced and disseminated to various NGOs, schools, development practitioners and media persons. A total of 6,000 copies were distributed. The PN and DRN issues were based on the 2005 PHDR background papers and are available on the HDN website.

<i>Policy Notes</i>	<i>Articles in the PIDS DRN issues</i>
a. Extracting the Root to Reap the Fruit: Searching for a Possible End to Armed Conflict by Rosemarie Edillon	a. Ideologically Motivated Conflicts in the Philippines: Exploring the Possibility of an Early Warning System by Cynthia Rose Bautista
b. The AFP’s Institutional Response to Armed Conflict: A Continuing Quest for the Rights Approach by Carolina Hernandez	b. The Metro-Manila Case Study by Noel Morada
c. Civil Society Institutional Response: Peaceful Interventions to Resolve Armed Conflicts by Miriam Coronel-Ferrer	c. Measuring the Bias Against Muslim (Condensed version of Pulse Asia’s Final Report submitted to HDN)
d. Armed Conflict in Bicol: The Price Does Not Come Cheap by Jovic Lobrigo et al.	
e. The Cost of War in Human Dimension: The Case of Lanao del Sur by Yasmin Busran-Lao	

2. *Completion of the Five-City Road Show/Fora.* Since our General Assembly in March 2006, we have completed a five-city road show of the 2005 PHDR, each of which featured a panel presentation, reactions from selected local resource persons and open forum/workshop that allowed the participants to discuss emerging issues and policy gaps relating to the messages of the Report. Two forums were held in Mindanao (Zamboanga and Cotabato), two in Luzon (Legazpi and Baguio), and one in the Visayas (Iloilo City).

The following are the list of 5 forums in chronological order:

- a. *Zamboanga Forum (22 Feb 2006).* This was organized by Ateneo de Zamboanga University and held at the Executive Hall of the Garden Orchid Hotel Zamboanga City. There were 87 participants from government agencies and institutions based in Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Basilan, Zamboanga City, and Zamboanga Sibugay.
 - b. *Cotabato (ARMM) Forum (25 Feb 2006).* This was organized by the Maguindanao Foundation for Good Governance and Development and held at Estosan Garden Hotel, Cotabato City. There were 95 participants from the academe, national and local government agencies, and NGOs based in Lanao Sur, Maguindanao, Cotabato province, Sultan Kudarat, Marawi City, and Cotabato City.
 - c. *Bicol Forum (2 Mar 2006).* This was organized by the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Legazpi and held at Alyssa's Convention Hall, Alicia Hotel in Legaspi City. There were about 125 participants from government, NGOs, religious sector, and the media based in Legaspi and surrounding Bicol provinces.
 - d. *CAR Forum (21 Mar 2006).* This was organized by DSWD Central and CAR office and held at Summer Place Hotel, Baguio City. There were 84 participants from government, NGOs, and the academe.
 - e. *Visayas Forum (22 May 2006).* This was organized by the Social Science Research Institute of Central Philippine University (CPU) and held at the Educational Media Center (EMC), CPU, Iloilo City. There were 112 participants from government agencies and institutions based in Region VI.
3. *Enhanced Second HDN-Muslim Poll Survey.* A second refined poll to measure anti-Muslim bias was commissioned with Pulse Asia as a follow-up to the groundbreaking poll featured in the 2005 PHDR. A key result is that bias against Muslims appears to have increased among non-Muslim Filipinos since the first poll. Depending on the index used, from 42% to 54% of non-Muslim Filipinos now appear to be biased against Muslims, as against 35% to 43% in March 2005.

On the other hand, fewer Filipinos associate the word ‘terrorism’ with Muslims (from 27% in March 2005, down to 9%). However, this decline seems to be due to a deliberate change in position of the question within the questionnaire, rather than a change in attitude among respondents: in the original survey, the question was included within the special 14-question HDN-Muslim module. For this survey, the question was asked before the HDN-Muslim module was presented to the respondents.

The second survey comes with a new Memorandum of Agreement with Pulse Asia, which provides that the HDN-Module will be co-owned by HDN and Pulse Asia. Hence, HDN has now full authority to publish or to disseminate the raw data, findings or analysis of the survey pertaining to the HDN’s module. As such, results and raw data of the second survey will be made available online.

4. *Design and Production of 2005 PHDR Thematic Posters:* The results of the second survey were incorporated in the design and production of three thematic posters and media kits. To date, the artwork for the poster series is being finalized and will be printed and released in time for the start of School Year 2007-2008.

As regards preparatory activities for the 6th PHDR:

1. *Production of Two (2) Pilot Provincial Human Development Reports and Municipal-level HDI.* The preparatory activities for the 6th PHDR include the production of two (2) pilot Provincial HDRs with municipal level HDIs. The milestones so far are as follows:
 - a. Misamis Oriental and La Union were selected as the two pilot sites based on criteria established by the HDN Executive Committee (Execom) in its meeting in May 2006. These criteria are: (i) LGU cooperation and sustainability; (ii) availability of data; and (iii) presence of potential institutional collaborators. NSCB assisted with the selection.
 - b. The Asia Pacific Policy Center (APPC) was commissioned to provide technical assistance in the production of the reports. The local collaborators are Research Institute for Mindanao Culture (RIMCU) for Misamis Oriental and Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) for La Union.
 - c. Inception Workshops were held in Misamis Oriental and La Union on 17-18 August 2006 and 26-27 October 2006, respectively, wherein APPC presented the Sustainable Human Development framework. At these workshops, each province identified the theme for its provincial reports. Misamis Oriental’s is “Environment and Governance” and La Union’s is “Poverty.”

- d. The initial findings and analysis for Misamis Oriental were presented to the Execom in December 2006. At that same meeting, APPC presented its initial attempt to construct a municipal level HDI. La Union has just submitted its first draft report for review.

Updates and learnings for this pilot effort will be presented in a separate report at the 2007 General Assembly.

2. Project Proposal for the 6th PHDR. In January 2007, HDN, represented by Toby Monsod, Noel de Dios and myself, was invited by UN Country Representative Nileema Noble to present HDN's proposal for the 2008 Report. To date, the project document has been endorsed by UNDP to the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) for funding.

In brief, we have proposed that the 6th PHDR focus on "*Institutions, Politics and Human Development in the Philippines*." We aim to generate concrete findings on: (i) how human development outcomes are mediated by the interaction between local and national government units and between the three branches of government, (ii) how institutions (rules, norms, beliefs and organization) condition these interactions; and (iii) where and how institutional reforms can be implemented to better enable human development targets -- in other words, how exactly do political institutions on both national and local levels impact not just economic outcomes but human development outcomes. Among the analyses we will undertake are an examination of current relations between local and national governments; an examination of explicit and implicit arrangements between the executive- judiciary; special case studies on the Civil Service Commission, Commission on Audit and Department of Education, and case studies on selected local government units. At the end of the day, we hope that the 6th PHDR will contribute in a sober, rigorous and non-partisan manner to the ongoing national political debate on the efficacy of existing structures and processes and identify how these may be improved.

C. Other Business Matters

1. *HDN Execom*. On 10 May 2006, the Execom had its internal elections with the following results:

President	:	Arsenio M. Balisacan
Vice President	:	Cynthia Rose B. Bautista
Secretary	:	Fernando T. Aldaba
Treasurer	:	Windfred M. Villamil
Auditor	:	Erlinda M. Capones
Members	:	Gelia T. Castillo Emmanuel S. de Dios Solita C. Monsod Romulo A. Virola

Quarterly meetings were held on 1 February, 10 May, 11 October and 13 December 2006. We thank all the Execom members for their voluntary efforts and valuable time in guiding the institution in accomplishing the activities during the past year.

3. *General Membership*: We have worked to expand our general membership and now have a total of 143 members, an increase from 126 members during last year's General Assembly.
4. *Financial Report for July 2004 to December 2006*. As part of our efforts to strengthen the HDN as an institution, we now have externally-audited Financial Reports for the last two projects, which were described above, namely: the *Development and Publication of the 2005 PHDR* and *Advocacy for the 5th Philippine Human Development Report (PHDR) and Preparatory Activities for the 6th PHDR*.