

The *Philippine Human Development Report* (PHDR), since its inception, has served as a venue in putting to the fore and generating discussion and consensus on human development issues.

The first PHDR published in 1994 introduced the use of the human development index as a yardstick of the progress across regions in the Philippines in terms of life expectancy, literacy and educational attainment, and access to resources or income. The 1994 PHDR proved useful in presenting an array of human development issues and opening avenues for further research.

This year the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) again teams up with the Human Development Network (HDN) to come up with the second PHDR. The 1997 PHDR takes a closer look at women, their well-being, condition and role in today's economy and society.

I am hopeful that the 1997 PHDR focus on gender issues in development will stimulate a stronger call for action to protect women from work hazards and violence and for an environment where women can fully realize their roles as working women, mothers and active members of the society.

The 1997 PHDR defines benchmarks for determining the commitment to human development at the local government level by analyzing social and human priorities and budget allocation patterns.

For all these, I commend the excellent work that the PHDR team has accomplished under the guidance of former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Solita Collas-Monsod. The PHDR's analysis of issues will certainly aid the government in formulating appropriate policies.

I am confident that the second PHDR will once again make a valuable contribution to carrying forward the work of real human development.

CIELITO F. HABITO
Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning
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The first global *Human Development Report* (HDR) was published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1990. It was inspired by an ethical vision embodied in the United Nations Charter — that of a world in which the fundamental rights, dignity and, worth of the human person and the equal rights of men and women are upheld, and where society is determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom for all of its members.

We live in a global society which generally ignores the fact that more than one billion or about 20 percent of the world's people continue to live in poverty and where the responsibility for changing this morally unacceptable situation is denied. Mobilizing a universal response, particularly among those who have the power and influence to change this state of affairs, became the challenge for successive annual Human Development Reports. Aware that the attraction of quantifiable indicators had led to a general acceptance of economic growth and material wealth as a measure of development success, the authors turned to complementary social indicators to remind us that growth is only a means and that the ultimate objective is human well-being. Through alternative analytic tools such as the Human Development Index (HDI), the Social Expenditure Priority Ratio, and the Gender-Related Human Development Index (GDI), the Reports highlighted the importance of other factors in securing improvements in the human condition and demonstrated that while growth is important, the manner in which it is achieved and distributed are equally important. By introducing the concept of indicators of human distress and social breakdown such as violence, murder, divorce, drug, and alcohol abuse and applying them to wealthy industrialized countries, it revealed that these countries, although economically advanced, cannot be considered as models of development in terms of the quality of human lives.

The first global HDR had a resounding impact on the development dialogue. By raising fundamental questions concerning both the objectives of development and how it is measured, it opened up not only the debate, but also the minds and eyes of many to a development vision which confronts the reality of poverty and inequality. The seven Reports issued on an annual basis since then have built on the dialogue generated and have refined, expanded and broadened it to examine other aspects. Other development actors are increasingly using the HDI or modifying their own measurements to reflect the issues it has raised.

The Philippines was among the first countries to seize the opportunity of having a similar report — focusing on the country situation from the point of view of human development. The UNDP was very fortunate to find enthusiastic, highly qualified and spirited partners in a group who now call themselves the Human Development Network (HDN) to initiate the preparation of a *Philippine Human Development Report* (PHDR) which was published in 1994. That report had a significant influence on government programmes, including the Social Reform Agenda and the adoption of a minimum basic needs approach to poverty eradication.

UNDP congratulates the Human Development Network in producing this second PHDR. The special focus on Women and Gender in Development calls attention to an area where the Philippines has made important advances and where the country has played an important advocacy role, including at international conferences. The works of the authors in this report provide a rich source of information for policymaking and for development of programmes to address women's issues. We hope that many of their findings and recommendations find their way into legislative and executive action.

UNDP hopes that in the Philippines the state of human development will continue to be considered the point of reference for all development decision-making, that it will be regularly monitored and reported, and most importantly, that what is being monitored will register continuing improvements in the quality of life of the Filipino people.

SARAH L. TIMPSON
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With this *Report*, the Human Development Network (HDN) hopes to provide fresh impetus not only to the discussions regarding sustainable human development, but, more importantly, to the efforts toward that end by both government and non-governmental organizations at all levels. Thus, it constitutes another major step towards achieving our twin objectives of stimulating interest in the use of the Human Development Index (HDI) and related tools of analysis at all levels and encouraging every community to formulate strategies for expanding the opportunities to people.

The HDN has come a long way in this regard. We have co-sponsored several forums on current issues — such as globalization — and their possible impact on human development; on the local level, we have given awards to the provinces which have the highest HDI, as well as those which have shown the largest improvements in their HDI; we have conducted seminars and served as resource persons on constructing HDI and using it as a criterion for judging the performance of elected officials and community leaders; we have lobbied both the executive and legislative branches to observe the human expenditure ratio (See Chapter 3) in their budgetary allocations.

It is gratifying to note that while human expenditure ratios have not yet reached their desired level, the Philippine government has committed to achieve its end of the Social Summit's 20:20 pact, which is to allocate at least 20% of the government's budget to basic education, health and water supply. Furthermore, President Fidel Ramos has by Executive Order mandated the National Statistical Coordination Board to gather and publish data on human development indicators at the most disaggregated levels to facilitate monitoring and comparing performance of the local communities across space and over time.

This *Report* tracks the human development performance of the Philippines between 1991 and 1994. It also tracks the human priority expenditures of central and local government, to determine essentially whether they have put their money where their mouth is. These results promise to be of great interest to provincial government executives as well as to the private sector.

Has there been an increase in a province's HDI over time? How does it compare with the other provinces? How does this reflect on the performance of the provincial government? Are local government expenditures on human priorities satisfactory? Has devolution hindered or promoted human priority spending? These are questions to which the *Report* provides some answers.

Sustainable human development has been defined as growth that is pro-poor, pro-women and pro-nature. The special focus of this *Report* is the Filipina. Interestingly, the 1997 World Human Development Report ranks the Philippines 35TH out of 94 countries according to the so-called Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM). That makes the Philippines the top-ranking country in the South East Asia Region. This *Report* provides concrete basis for that ranking. It studies in depth the Filipina, tracking her progress over the years, the kind of discrimination she has had to overcome and still has to overcome (as reflected partly in the GDI), the hazards she faces in the workplace and at home, the pattern of her spending, the use of her time, the value of her unpaid labor, the contribution she makes to the economy and to the polity. The message is clear: women in general — and Filipinas in particular — are the key to sustainable human development.

We fervently hope this message is heard — and acted on.

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President
Human Development Network