

Editor's Note

The UP College of Social Work and Community Development has identified priority development concerns around which research clusters have been formed, i.e., Migration, Disaster Risk Reduction, Governance, and Social Protection. These concerns translate into a series of thematic issues for the Philippine Journal of Social Development, beginning with this one on international migration.

International migration was already a feature of Filipino life even before Spanish colonialism in the sixteenth century. In 1974, the institutionalisation of the overseas employment program by the Marcos government paved the way for the massive deployment of Filipino workers globally. Overseas employment has since become a lucrative industry with the active participation of the private and public sectors. The government plays multiple and conflicting roles as market developer, recruiter and sender of workers, regulator, and duty bearer. Under the Arroyo government, the educational system was even re-oriented and restructured to produce graduates for the global market. Today, at least a million women and men leave the country annually with working visas. Tens of thousands more leave on other kinds of visa but actually intending to pursue employment.

The current Aquino Administration has yet to resolve the issue of whether the status of the Philippines as one of the world's Top 5 labor-sending countries should be a source of pride or concern. It has only gone as far as saying that it would like international migration to be a product of free choice, not of economic necessity.

The articles in this issue examine aspects of international migration from different angles and lenses. They reflect ironies, contradictions and challenges in the lived realities of Filipino migrants and their families, and society in general. Moreover, they underscore the right to migrate as a fundamental human right, and the obligation of governments of source and destination countries, as duty bearers, to recognize and protect this right as well as other fundamental rights of migrants and their families, including social and cultural rights. They not only analyse; they also recommend concrete courses of action to the government and civil society stakeholders.

We start with the concept of development as freedom. Yolanda G. Ealdama revisits Amartya Sen's book "Development as Freedom" in relation to the right to mobility. Using discourse analysis, she argues that Sen's concept of

development is framed by the notion of a nation-state where mobility is a given. This may explain why it is silent on the freedom of mobility. Ealdama asserts that freedom, in a globalising world, has also assumed a global dimension; thus, the need to analyse *development as freedom* beyond the nation state.

Thelma B. Magcuro's article on Filipino seafarers provides an overview on the relatively less known maritime industry and its workers. It describes the significant contributions of the industry to national and global development, and the ebbs and flows of a seafarer's life. It is ironic that as an archipelago, the Philippines has an underdeveloped maritime industry and hence, has to rely on the foreign market for the employment of skilled seafarers.

Children are among the reasons parents decide to work abroad temporarily or permanently. By going abroad, parents hope to earn enough to nourish and educate their children in the best way possible, thereby ensuring a good future for them. Ironically, the well-being of children is often among the social costs of migration. Studies show that children's needs are complex and certainly not limited to the material and financial. Mark Anthony D. Abenir's article entitled "A Social Protection and Integration Strategy for Children of OFWs: A Case Study on the Psycho-Social Support Program of BUNGA Foundation, Inc." provides a review of existing literature on how Filipino children are affected emotionally and psychologically by the emigration of one or both parents. It gives us an example of a programmatic and innovative response by a non-governmental organisation (NGO) at the micro and meso levels aimed at assisting children to address the adverse effects of "care drain" in partnership with schools and communities.

The second article on children indicates that family reunification in a destination country does not automatically resolve the psycho-emotional and communication problems arising from the emigration-related separation of parents and children. Cristina M. Liamzon discusses the difficulties faced by Filipino youths between the ages of 14-20 years in the process of reuniting with their parents and, in some cases, siblings in Rome, and the adjustments they had to make in their family, in school and society in general. She underscores how the migrant youths' inadequate pre-departure preparation for life in Italy, including speaking and understanding the Italian language, impeded their capacity to cope with the challenges of living and interacting in a new socio-cultural and political context. The migrant youths demonstrate resilience, human agency and determination in hurdling the obstacles and their longing

for loved ones and friends left behind in the Philippines so they could remain with their parents in Rome.

In addition to remittances, there are other ways by which overseas Filipinos maintain their links to the homeland. They contribute time, money, services and other resources to various socio-economic endeavours at the local and national levels. Augustus T. Añonuevo and Estrella Mai Dizon-Añonuevo's article addresses the problematique of how diaspora philanthropy can be effectively utilised to achieve sustainable development in the Philippines. It examines the strengths and limitations of current forms and practices of diaspora philanthropy. Furthermore, it identifies the obstacles and challenges to strategic philanthropy and offers ways of responding to them, by among others, citing exemplary cases. Through strategic diaspora philanthropy, overseas Filipinos become catalysts and agents of social development.

The long history of Filipino emigration, specially for employment, as well as increasing impoverishment has inadvertently made it easy for human traffickers to pursue their trade. The Philippines is not only a major source country for trafficking; it is also a transit and destination country. Access to correct and adequate information on human trafficking by frontline service providers and community residents is seen as one way of raising people's awareness and capacitating them to combat trafficking. Using a human rights perspective, Leticia S. Tojos assesses the materials and methods utilised by the Quezon City government (through its Social Services and Development Department and Barangay Councils) in disseminating information on human trafficking in Barangays Botocan and Escopa. She discusses the outcomes of past efforts and areas for improvement. Recommendations are put forth to the local government and to community organisations working in partnership with NGOS.

What could be a more fitting way to end this issue than with a call for states to embrace the reality and positives of multiculturalism, particularly as compounded by immigration. Jorge V. Tigno interrogates the ways by which "migration multiculturalism" has been interpreted, contested, rejected or affirmed by states, with focus on Australia, Japan and Malaysia. He shows how states have adopted restrictive policies even in midst of globalisation processes that, among others, have facilitated the international movements of peoples at an unprecedented scale. He concludes that while there is more tolerance and openness now towards ethnic minorities in an increasing number of nation-states, resistance to pluralism is still the norm in others. Much work remains to be done in creating democratic and multicultural societies.