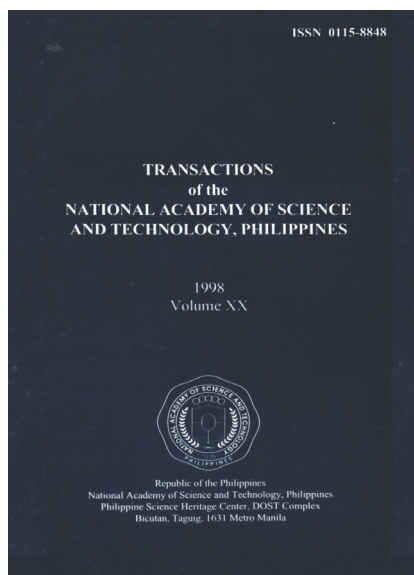


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## Summary Paper: Human Development Policy and the Social Sciences

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## **PLENARY SESSION VII**

### **“THE SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND PUBLIC WELFARE”**

#### **SUMMARY PAPER: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

This paper integrates the presentations made during the third Pre-Congress of the Fourth National Social Science Congress last May 23, 1998 on the topic, “Human Development Policy and the Social Sciences.” Four panelists made presentations on different aspects of human development policy and the social sciences.

Prof. Leonor Magtolis Briones introduced the topic and rendered an overview of human development and the social sciences. Part of her presentation touched on her field of specialization which is public administration. Dr. Exaltacion E. Lamberte’s paper was on “Issues in Monitoring Life Beyond Economics: Implications to the Practice of Social Science in Public Policy. Two other papers focused on policy advocacy from two perspectives: advocacy by organizations and networks and advocacy from the personal perspective of a social scientist. Dr.

<sup>1</sup>Prof. Briones is currently Coordinator of Social Watch Asia. Social Watch is a global network of non-government organizations, people’s organizations, and different sectors of civil society monitoring the implementation of commitments of government to social development. Prof. Briones is also Chair of Focus on the Global South, an NGO that monitors political, social, and economic developments in Asia. It is based in Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Emmanuel S. de Dios described the Human Development Network (HDN) as an example of “policy research and advocacy in a lateral mode.” Dr. Victoria A. Bautista’s paper presents reflections on her personal experiences in policy advocacy and underlines nine important lessons. Her paper, written and delivered in Pilipino, was much appreciated by the Pre-Congress participants.

This summary paper does not cover economics and certain aspects of governance since these were discussed in separate sessions. However, it includes issues which were raised by the discussants and the participants themselves.

## I. THE ROLE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PUBLIC POLICY

Historically, the social sciences have always contributed to the formulation of public policy, ranging from the classic fields of law, history, and political economy to “younger” social sciences like sociology, political science, social psychology, cultural anthropology, or demography, and yes, my own field of public administration.

In the worlds of UNESCO, *“To what extent can science define and control the phenomenon governing the complex relations between states or between members of national communities? Are there, between these phenomena, constant relationships which, once delivered, enable us to influence and alter ‘realities’ and with them, the so-called fated course of history? This is the social sciences’ ultimate aim.”*

Recently, the role of social sciences in public policy has further enlarged and expanded. A widening array of social sciences disciplines are actively influencing not only methodology in the gathering of data which serve as a basis for policy. These disciplines have contributed to basic concepts related to the goals and objectives of public policy. The role of the social sciences in the concept of human development is a clear example.

## II. THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

As defined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *“... development, (human development specifically) proceeds from the much broader realization that the real wealth of a nation is its people – both women and men. And the purpose of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives.”* (UNDP 1995: 11).

There are three components of human development: income, education, and life expectancy. Following recent revisions, [the human development index (HDI)] is now constructed by looking at three outcomes of development: the state of health (measured by life expectancy at birth), the level of knowledge and skill (measured by adult literacy and enrollment rates), and the level of real income per capita, adjusted to reflect the priority given to relieving absolute poverty. (Philippine Human Development Report 1997: 26).

Human development also takes into account the gender aspects of development. The HDI as constructed, has also been modified to reflect the systematic unfavorable economic and social conditions faced by women. These include the general tendency to women to receive lower pay for the same occupation, to find employment in jobs that are lower-paying, and in some countries to be subject to discrimination in acquiring higher education and obtaining health services of quality equal to those to which males are entitled. In response to the issues related to gender disparities, the gender-related human development index (GDI) was born. (Philippine Human Development Report 1997: 26).

Discussant Dr. Sylvia H. Guerrero called attention to the gender aspects of human development. She noted that general measures of human development neglect the fact that the "quality of life" of women is lower in many countries than that of men. In addition to the GDI, she cited the Gender Empowerment Measures (GEM) which looks at participation in political life and decision making.

In addition to concepts of human development as developed by UNDP, Lamberte's paper touches on concepts of well-being, positive and negative rights, human values, human dignity, and quality of life as essential aspects of human development.

The discussants noted that there is a tendency to assume that social science terminologies like "human development" are more or less "standard" in meaning considering the fact that these are widely used by United Nations organizations like UNDP. Dr. Ariel Heryanto pointed out that in Indonesia, "development" is largely associated with the former president of Indonesia who claimed to be the "father of development of the nation". He stated, *"I hope you can understand, development is a term that has not only been a slogan and propaganda, it has become the pretext, justification for killing, disappearances, land grabbing, etc. The word has been badly abused and misused up to 30 years."* He stated that perhaps a new word has to be "invented" which will be acceptable to other countries.

Briones also noted that the term "non-government organization" or NGO has different meanings in different countries. In the Philippines, NGOs generally have high status and a good number are considered effective agents for human development. In South Asia, they are viewed with suspicion and resentment as "development bureaucrats."

### III. THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The different social science disciplines have contributed to what Lamberte describes as "life beyond economics." Various dimensions of social development, sustainable human development, minimum basic needs have been enriched by a wide range of social science disciplines.

*Measuring Human Development*

At this time, there is more precision and rigor in the collection, classification, measurement, and examination of social data. This is due to insights culled from different disciplines, advances in information technology, and constant communication and exchange between and among social scientists.

Nevertheless, the Pre-Congress participants warned getting “very much pre-occupied with trying to measure the human experience.” Heryanto noted that there are limitations to empiricism. Thus, analyses tend to become “more mechanized and mathematized.” He asked “How do you measure the use of Tagalog in the context of progress and human development?”

Dr. Belinda A. Aquino concurred and observed “that too much empiricism – quantitative data – can be paralyzing.” She maintained that data must be analyzed in the context of Philippine society. Quantitative information must be enriched by qualitative analyses.

*Social Scientists as Policy Makers*

The social science disciplines have not only contributed to concepts of human development, as well as collection and measurement of social data. They have contributed warm bodies as policy makers in government, civil society, and regional as well as international bodies. The change in administration in the Philippines has seen the exodus of social scientists from the academe to government. These are largely from the disciplines of economics, public administration, political science, sociology, and law. At the same time, policy makers from the previous administration are coming home to the academe to enhance research and teaching with their rich experience in government.

*Social Scientists and Civil Society Organizations*

A good number of civil society organizations are headed by known social scientists. They are not only engaged in organizing communities and delivering services. They are also creating and contributing to new concepts of development as well as innovative strategies in people empowerment and economic freedom.

*Accountability of Policy Makers and Administrators*

The Pre-Congress participants identified a major area where social sciences have made significant contributions and should continue to do so. This is in the area of accountability.

During the eighties, the College of Public Administration under then Dean Raul P. de Guzman pioneered in the study of graft and corruption on a regional scale. The researchers coined an elegant term, “deviant bureaucratic behavior” to describe the phenomenon. Graft and corruption which was largely viewed as a police issue became a proper area of study for social scientists. The ground break-

ing study brought to bear social science theory to understand this social cancer. Among others, the disciplines of history, sociology, anthropology, public administration (organizational theory and human behavior), psychology, and economics contributed to a better understanding of graft and corruption. Case studies were made of “flagships of corruption”: a regulatory agency, a revenue collection agency, and a major spending agency. Laws which were passed, as well as graft-busting bodies, were assessed in terms of effectiveness.

The analyses and recommendations were used successfully by agencies that were serious about combating graft and corruption. Since then, the social scientists that started the work have moved on to other concerns. There is a need to update and continue these studies which were made nearly two decades ago. Government organizations have undergone profound changes; new “flagships of corruption” have emerged; methodologies of corruption have changed, as well as human values and behavior. The need to continue these studies has gained urgency at this time when limited resources have to be husbanded carefully. Leakages to graft and corruption cannot and must not be tolerated.

Still on enhancing accountability, Pre-Congress participants called attention to the accountability of social scientists that become policy makers and implementers. Briones noted that the feeling of power, of being able to influence people and shape destinies can be very heady. Social scientists have to balance messianic urges with regular reality checks.

Briones also emphasized the need for speed in decision-making in times of crises. Take the impact of the Asian economic crisis which has had disastrous social consequences. There is no need to wait for precise data on poverty, unemployment, and social disintegration. It is obvious that the 1994 data on poverty and other social indicators have gone haywire since the onset of the crisis. There is a need for balance between the precision of data and the speed of decision making.

Finally, the Pre-Congress participants noted that the social science community can act as a check on policy makers. It was noted that the Philippine Social Science Council has come out with a Code of Ethics for social scientists. It was recommended that this should be reviewed and adopted.

#### **IV. ISSUES IN MONITORING AND MEASURING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

##### *The Need to Measure Freedom and Human Rights Separately*

E. Lamberte in her paper analyzed the manner by which the social science conceptual inputs and research tools contributed to the advancement and the monitoring of human development efforts in the country. She examined the adequacy of human development indicators being used in the Philippines based on the available social science conceptual inputs or frameworks and research strate-

gies. She demonstrated how the relevant body of social science knowledge can be made useful in enriching the monitoring systems currently existing in the country.

Lamberte also defined some conceptual inputs that are being used to measure human development. These include human development, well-being, positive and negative rights, human values, human dignity, and quality of life. According to her, states, countries, communities, or aggregate areas can be assessed on the following bases: (1) on how well they fare in terms of human development, (2) on the state of well-being of their constituents taking cognizance of both the positive and negative rights of the people, (3) on the extent to which they advance human values thus promoting human dignity of their people, and (4) on the state of their quality of life focusing much on their basic needs and positive rights. She examined the measures of human development, poverty, well-being, quality of life, and living standards in the Philippines and pointed out that these poverty measures enable the monitoring of poverty conditions of the poor.

However, some issues and concerns in the monitoring of outcomes or deprivations also exist. Lamberte contented that the meanings of the concepts being used to capture life beyond economics such as human development, well-being, and quality of life are seemingly not clearly distinct and in most cases, the concepts are synonymously and interchangeably used. While the different monitoring systems are exhaustive in their listing, these seemed not to correspond closely with the conceptual inputs.

She also pointed out that most of the indicators used in the different monitoring systems cover welfare items and resources. She attributed this to the situation where the existing monitoring systems that have been developed initially evolved from the concern for the poverty situation in the country. She observed further that although there are different systems of monitoring at the community level, these are limited only to the target or pilot areas where the projects are being undertaken and piloted. She added that while there is a multiplicity of monitoring systems, the monitoring is still not being done on a regular basis and there is no assurance that it can be sustained. According to her, in most cases, the use of the monitoring system and the conduct of the data collection are subject to the availability of project funds.

Aside from these, Lamberte mentioned some normative and theoretical problems which arose with regards to the monitoring system of human development. Such questions as what criteria will guide the policy makers and the local government officials in prioritizing the needs of the community, the degree of importance being given to the different components of an indicator system, the question of trade-offs, among other things, were raised.

She pointed out that a critical problem in the monitoring of the achievements (or the absence of it) of human development, well-being, and poverty in the country is the large numbers of indicators that are involved in the systems. She cited the need to reduce the number of indicators being used, where the system needs to have such characteristics as: (1) it reflects all aspects of human development; (2) it adopts a minimalist approach — meaning, fewer indicators, yet cap-

turing all aspects of human development; (3) it is easy to collect; (4) it is easy to analyze; (5) it is easy to interpret; and (6) it is useful for policy.

First, she mentioned that the Philippines has made great strides in considering the essential aspects of human development where non-economic dimensions and indicators of development have already been incorporated in the tracking of the well-being of the people. However, there is a need to move the indicator system closer to the conceptual inputs that are increasingly accepted by many countries to measure progress in human development.

Second, social scientists and public policy practitioners are, to a certain extent, already conscious of the importance of looking at the non-economic dimensions in the lives of the people. Development is viewed not only in terms of rapid economic growth but also in terms of human capabilities, functioning, and conditions. However, these concepts have to be clearly distinguished from each other and understood well because they have different implications to public policy. It is therefore the responsibility of social scientists to do more research on these issues to refine and fine-tune these concepts to local conditions.

Third, it is the role of social scientists to deepen and expand the knowledge of policy makers and data producers of the advances in the conceptual inputs for promoting human development. She suggested that continuous training be conducted among people for them to be equipped immediately while timeliness of the results must be considered for the system to be useful.

Fourth, due to limited resources of the country, it is worthwhile to develop one indicator system that: (1) truly reflects the important aspects of human development, yet addresses some of the concerns of certain agencies that want to monitor their performance; (2) is minimalist in approach in that it includes fewer indicators, but is reflective of human development; (3) is easy to collect on a regular basis at a very low cost; and (4) is easy to analyze and interpret so that results will come out on a timely basis.

Finally, the people have elected a new President because of his emphasis on social issues. Thus, the next six years will be an opportune time for social scientists to advance their view of human development and well-being.

The point has already been made earlier about balancing quantitative measurements and qualitative, wholistic analyses. Observations had already been made about balancing likewise the luxury of thorough research and speed in decision making.

Heryanto called attention to the problems of integrating “non-economic” categories of indicators in relation to economic data. Dr. Alfredo V. Lagmay pointed out the “redundancy of certain indicators of social development” He asked, “Was it a waste of money or an advantage to have so many indicators”? In addition to indicators, he pointed out the need to have data on communications, marketing, transportation, and other relevant information.

## V. SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AND POLICY ADVOCACY

More and more social scientists are moving from preoccupation with monitoring development policy to actual policy advocacy. This is particularly true in the Philippines where academics and scholars take to the streets, enter politics, and accept government positions in the hope of translating advocacy into policy. From policy, they move on to formulation and implementation of actual plans and projects.

The papers presented during the Pre-Congress gave concrete examples of advocacy by organizations and networks, as well as advocacy from the individual advocate's perspective.

### A. *Advocacy Through Networks and Organizations: Social Watch*

Briones' presentation cited the case of Social Watch, a global network of NGOs, people's organizations, and other members of civil society, which monitors the implementation of commitments made by governments at the Social Summit in Copenhagen in 1995.

During the Summit, 136 participating governments made 12 concrete commitments to reduce poverty, unemployment, and social disintegration. Commitments made during the summit on women (the Beijing Summit) are also monitored. These are: (1) to achieve completion of primary education for at least 80% of school age children by the year 2000 and to provide universal access to basic education for all school age children; (2) to achieve a life expectancy of over 60 years; (3) to reduce infant mortality rates by a third of the 1990 rate, or to 50 per 1,000 live births and to reduce under 5 mortality rates by a third of the 1990 rates or to 70 per 1,000 live births; (4) to reduce maternal mortality to half the 1990 level; (5) to achieve food security; (6) to reduce severe and moderate malnutrition for children under 5 to half of the 1990 rate; (7) to provide access to health care services for all; (8) to provide access to reproductive health care services to all persons; (9) to reduce mortality and morbidity due to malaria by at least 20% of 1995 levels in 75% of countries affected; (10) to eradicate, eliminate, or control the main diseases constituting sanitary problems on a world level; (11) to reduce the rate of adult illiteracy to at least half the 1990 level; and (12) to provide access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for all.

The monitoring that Social Watch does is fairly straightforward. Social Watchers from different countries monitor the implementation of these commitments which are quite specific and measurable. These country reports are put together in the annual Social Watch report. At the same time, data corresponding to the 12 commitments are gathered from reports of various UN agencies. These data are translate into tables. Thus comparisons can be made among different countries.

In the case of the Philippines, we are going backwards in terms of increasing the number of children reaching the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, births and pregnancies attended, and sanitation. The areas in which our goals have been achieved before

1990 include increasing the level of enrollments and life expectancy. We have already achieved our goals before the year 2000 in the area of reducing infant mortality and increasing adult literacy while not enough progress is being done on the areas of calories per capita and making available safe drinking water. We will achieve our goals by the year 2000 in the area of reducing the malnutrition level for children under 5 years old while we are standing still when it comes to providing immunization to children under 1 year old. No data are available in the areas of reducing the mortality rate of children under 5 years old and providing access to health services.

The country reports are primarily qualitative analyses which give meaning and flesh to statistics submitted by governments to the United Nations. Since social watchers are mainly from civil society, they are able to confirm if the claims of governments have basis or not. They also go beyond statistics and focus on what is really happening to the people behind the numbers.

The reports of Social Watch are presented to the UN Commission on Social Development's annual meetings. So far, the reports have been received favorably and have been found to be useful to governments as well as to the UN institutions. These are also used by NGOs and people's organizations in their advocacy with their own governments.

Briones serves as coordinator for Asia and co-convenor for the Philippines of Social Watch. Other co-convenors are Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), Action for Economic Reforms, and Accessing Support Services and Entrepreneurial Technology (ASSET).

**B. *Policy Research and Advocacy in a Lateral Mode – The Human Development Network (HDN)***

Advocacy is defined by de Dios "*an attempt by one party (call this the advocate X) to alter the preferences of another party (call this the addressee Y) over relevant objects of choice under Y's ultimate preferences so that those objects of choice become identical or similar to X's.*" He distinguishes between policy research and advocacy in a lateral mode and in a vertical mode. To him, lateral research and advocacy originates from entities whose claims to legitimacy are based not on constituency but on a broader, more desirable social welfare function. Lateral research and advocacy wholly or partly internalizes the decision-making problem or the state, or more accurately the bureaucracy so that it seeks to present a technocratic alternative or solution to the problem it raises. The Human Development Network (HDN) is one such organization. On the other hand, vertical policy research and advocacy based on social claims on the state by a sector of civil society itself and where such advocacy, with important exceptions, makes little or no attempt to reconcile conflicting social demands.

As described by De Dios, the HDN is a loose group of individuals, numbering around 30 now, who got together sometime in 1992 but which was formally registered only in 1996. The organization describes its membership as consisting

of “development practitioners”, that is, people who are in one way or another involved in development. A good number of its members are decidedly “high profile”, and prominent, beginning with the HDN president herself, and including staff of government agencies (directors, assistant- and undersecretaries) international organizations, university professors and administrators, academicians, heads and staff of research institutes, and persons closely associated with the community of POs and NGOs. In terms of disciplines and backgrounds, they include economists, political scientists, sociologists, and specialists in public administration, education, and social work.” The main aim and the common interest of its members is to develop and propagate the concept of “human development” through research and advocacy.

The first *Philippine Human Development Report, or PHDR* [UNDP 1994] developed the HDI measure by calculating it for regions and pointing to large regional inequalities, especially for regions in Mindanao. It showed the similarities and divergences between this measure and income measures, whether based on production estimates (regional GDPs) and household income surveys (e.g., poverty incidence). Apart from introducing and developing the HDI, however, the bulk of the volume consisted of a full discussion of issues relating to sustaining income growth, human capital formation, environment issues, and political participation. The first PHDR was distributed (by UNDP) at a “consultative group” meeting of foreign donors and used to good effect to guide priorities for the government. Subsequently, the Ramos government, especially through NEDA, adopted human development – at least formally – as its more important goal. This initiative was a significant leavener to the Ramos government’s earlier one-dimensional depiction of its goal of “NIC-hood.”

The second *PHDR* [HDN 1997] focused on two themes: women and local government. On the measurement side, it made a contribution by computing HDIs adjusted to gender-inequality at the regional level. HDIs at the provincial level were also published and made available for the first time. In addition, the issues of earnings equality, workplace hazards, domestic violence, and political participation as they affected women were given a thorough discussion. The part of research that made the most impact, however, was the analysis of budgetary priorities of local governments and congressional pork barrel allocations, which suggested distorted priorities on the part of the latter, and inequities in the former. The ranking of provinces by their HDIs and expenditure priorities for human development was calculated to spur both accountability and competition in these dimensions.

The launching of the PHDRs are themselves big and high-profile events attended by high government officials, which served to call attention to the issue being raised. At least in the last two instances, the President of the Republic always graced the occasion. This reinforced the credibility of the group’s research and findings among the bureaucracy, as well as provided an opportunity for the government to respond directly in the form of directives.

Finally, De Dios identifies three elements “which seem crucial” in the success of the HDN. First was the reputation for independence and high research standards of the members. Second, was the nature of the support of the UNDP which allowed HDN to set its own priorities. Thus, the work of HDN is not “donor-driven.” The third and most important element, was the members’ good will toward each other and ability to work together as equals. Membership was based on individual, not organizational, commitment and was by invitation.

*C. Integrating Policy Advocacy in the Life of a Social Scientist*

The paper of Bautista, which was written in Filipino, reflects her personal experience in policy advocacy in the Integrated Approach to Local Development Management (IALDM) for the Philippine Plan of Action for Children (PPAC). She identified nine important lessons learned in policy advocacy from an individual social scientist’s standpoint, as follows:

1. the comparative advantage of a social scientist is the set of data to back up his/her arguments;
2. packaging information into a form that could be understood by the decision makers is imperative;
3. policy makers are busy and they need only the most important information to be convinced rather than “good to know” – “nice to know” information;
4. persistence is a must where every opportunity to advocate the perspective is used;
5. sustaining the interest to study and learn about the perspective helps the scholar emerge as an expert in the field;
6. the scientist should learn to accept the fact that the idea advocated ultimately becomes public “ownership” and one “exits” from being the author but rather, returns to the role of a critic;
7. advocacy is made easy through networks and alliances of people who could help project the idea;
8. policy advocacy is an additional responsibility which takes a lot of time from an academician’s busy schedule; and
9. policy advocacy and social mobilization can be included in the social science curriculum to equip the scientists for an advocacy role.

The Pre-Congress participants were delighted with the use of the national language and found the personal account refreshing and inspiring.

## VI. CHALLENGES TO THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

### A. *The Economic Crisis and the Social Sciences*

The crisis which is currently gripping the country was first described as a “currency crisis.” Unabated, it developed into a full blown economic crisis with consequent impacts on poverty, unemployment, and social disintegration.

The crisis also presents both challenge and opportunity to the social sciences and social scientists. It is certain that data which have been collected meticulously through the years are now meaningless. These are now useful only as base data. There is a need for social scientists to determine the extent and nature of the damage inflicted by the crisis on the people.

Dr. Joseph Anthony Y. Lim has come up with a paper on the impact of the crisis, particularly on social development. It was prepared for the UNDP and identifies the different sectors which are directly impacted by the crisis. His paper can serve as a starting point for detailed studies and for the formulation on speedy policy responses as well as assistance to those who are badly hit by the crisis.

### B. *Challenges to the Social Sciences and the Social Scientists*

One of the issues which was repeatedly raised during the Pre-Congress was: How can the role of the social sciences and social scientists in public policy be enhanced?

1. The challenge is for the social sciences and social scientists to review theory and practice in the light of rapid changes occasioned by globalization for example, practice has overtaken theory in many areas. Mainstream theories no longer describe what is taking place in the public sector. The borders of public administration as a field of study have been changing very rapidly. Distinctions between the public sector and the private sector are blurring. The roles of the state, the private sector, and civil society are undergoing profound changes. Theories of bureaucracy and organizational behavior no longer describe what is actually happening in the government.

It is very likely that the other social science disciplines are facing similar challenges and opportunities.

2. The dilemma which the earnest social scientist constantly faces is: Should he or she stay away from the “corridors of power” and concentrate on research, policy studies, monitoring and recommendation, or should he or she wade into the arena of policy making. A third alternative is involvement in the NGO movement and in other civil society organizations. As noted earlier, many social scientists have brought their professional skills as well as dedication and commitment to civil society organization like NGOs and people’s organizations as well as networks.

3. During the Pre-Congress, two interrelated comments touched on new challenges to the social sciences as well as social scientists. Guerrero challenged three of the presentors (Briones, de Dios, and Bautista) to document their personal experiences in policy advocacy, and reflect on lessons gained from the experience. She noted that such an approach would be useful for social sciences in the Philippines. On the other hand, Dr. Mary Racelis noted that “social science” is capturing what is happening in the countryside and in the communities where the NGOs are. To her, “it is not just what you studied abroad and teach here. You must start from the roots – what people think and do count. Local NGOs are building their own new paradigms. They have a role to play to strengthen the capacity of academics.”
4. While it is true that many social scientists are now in civil society organizations, they have been too busy and engrossed in working out new paradigms of development to write down their experiences and therefore contribute to social science theory and practice.

#### *Words of Advice*

A few words of advice to social scientists who are seriously considering getting involved in policy formulation.

First, If you want to play safe and minimize risks, you can stick to commissioned researchers and consultancies. These activities are profitable financially as well as professionally. These are held in high esteem. Social scientists who are engaged in research and consultancy have a very important role to play. They serve the needs of policy makers who don't have the time and the expertise to delve into policy issues and alternatives.

Second, you may want to participate in the policy process itself, especially in deciding among competing approaches to a particular issue. If you have achieved national stature, you can engage in advocacy without necessarily being part of networks and organizations. In many instances, these advocacy groups will contact you for advice. You can also join organizations or form one yourself. Social scientists who have done this consider the experience perhaps the most exhilarating as well as frustrating part of their lives.

Third, you might seriously consider “joining the enemy”, e.g., the government. Some do it deliberately; others are persuaded; some are pressured into serving the government. One advantage is power and access to resources. On the other hand, social scientists also lend credibility to government decisions and policies. Also, it is a grand opportunity and challenge to put ideas into action, and theory into practice. Or so, you think.

One who joins the government must be fully prepared. First, you must have what I call “maximum capacity for suffering.” You must have a cast iron stomach to deal with stupidity and ignorance, as well as greed. Second,

you must have administrative skills. Policy-making in government is not only about making models, gathering data, and making choices. It is also about managing organizations and motivating people. Third, you must have political skills as well. Remember, decisions in government are always part of a political process. Finally, you must be like a Ninja turtle. You must protect your back at all times since plots and counterplots abound in government.

5. Pre-Congress participants called for the development of Filipino social sciences. Dr. Belinda A. Aquino raised this challenge. At the same time, participant from Mindanao emphasized the need for social scientists from the region to study the problems of Mindanao.
6. Another issue which elicited lively discussion was raised by Dr. Gloria Santos. She inquired if spiritual aspects should not be included in concepts of human development. She noted that "human beings consist of body and soul, spirit and matter. Human development is not complete without spiritual development. Seeing that we are an oriental country, is there a part in human development for the spiritual aspect?"

#### **REFERENCES CITED\***

\*Note: The list of references cited in the paper was not received as of press time.