Opening remarks

Consuelo Joaquin-Paz
Dean
College of Social Sciences and Philosophy
University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

Alam ito ng ilan sa naririto ngayon na noong una hindi ako gaanong interesado o naniniwala sa kabuluhan ng ganitong klase ng reserts. Akala ko kasi na ititreyn lamang ng dayuhan ang fakulti natin sa pagri-reserts. Pero sa nakita kong pamamalakad ng reserts, ang mga istratehiyang ginamit na kaparis ng fildwurk at lalo na nga ang mga resulta ng gawaing ito na naisulat at pakikinabangan, hindi lamang ng komunidad na pinag-aralan kundi ng kapwa natin social scientists, masasabi ko ngayon na mali ang pangamba ko.

Unang-una, pinatunayan ng proyektong ito na mali ang paniniwalang ang mga akademiko ay walang kinalaman sa kapaligiran, dahil ang mga pinag-aralan ng grupong ito ay mga problemang kontemporaryo sa buhay ng tao. Mga halimbawa nito ay problema sa lupa, mga kooperatiba, epekto ng malaking sakuna at iba pang mahahalagang problema na pinag-aaralan din ng pamahalaan at ng komunidad.

Bukod dito, ipinakita ng mga resertser sa mahusay na pamumuno ni Prof. Fe Arcinas at magaling na pamamalakad ni Dr. Cynthia Bautista na makabuluhan ang mga social science, hindi lamang sa pangongolekta ng mga beysik na impormasyon tungkol sa tao at pag-aases ng kapaligiran nya, kundi malaki ang papel ng mga siyensiyang ito sa pagsulong at pagpapatuloy ng development.

Ipinakita rin ng mga resertser ang importansya ng paglahok ng tao ng komunidad sa reserts. Ang pagfifildwurk nila ay hindi lamang para mag-observ kundi para maisama ang tao sa pagsusuri. Nakita ito, halimbawa sa mga wurkshap na ginawa. Nakasama rito ang mga residente ng mga barangay na pinuntahan nila. Tinalakay rin nila ang mga importanteng problema ng mga tao doon at mga posibleng sagot sa kanilang mga problema.

Sa ngalan ng institusyon na pinanggalingan ng mga myembro ng research team, ang institusyon na sinasabing makikinabang sa mga

methodology *at istratehiya ng* social science *na sinubukan at ipinakitang mahusay sa pagrereserts nila na magpapayaman sa kurikyulum at pagtuturo sa kolehiyo namin at makikinabang rin sa mga materyal na bagay ng prajek, binabati ko ang* research team *ng UP-CASA ng mabuhay at salamat!*

[Some of you here are probably aware that I was not very interested nor did I believe in the significance of this kind of research at the beginning. I thought that foreigners would just train our faculty in doing research. Now that I have seen the manner in which the research was managed, using strategies like fieldwork and given the written results which are useful not only to the community being studied but also to our fellow social scientists, I can say that my misgivings were unfounded.

First, the project serves to challenge the view that academicians are detached from their milieu because what the team studied were contemporary problems affecting the lives of the common man, e. g., the problems regarding land use and agrarian reform, the establishment of cooperatives, the effects of natural disasters and other similar issues, problems which are also addressed by the government and by the community.

Besides this, the researchers, under the able leadership of Prof. Fe Arcinas and the good management of Dr. Cynthia Bautista, underscored the relevance of the social sciences not only in gathering information about people and in assessing their situation but also in supporting and furthering development.

The researchers also showed the importance of community involvement in the research process. The fieldwork was undertaken not just to observe people but also to get people involved in the analysis of their situation. This is demonstrated in the various workshops conducted whereby local residents in the barangay were invited as participants. Together with local residents, the researchers discussed important issues and explored possible answers to their problems.

In behalf of the institution from which members of this research team were drawn, an institution that will surely benefit from the creative use and consequent improvements of social science methods and research strategies towards the development of research in the college, not to mention the research facilities they are leaving behind, I congratulate the research team of the UP-CASA Joint Project on Agrarian Issues in Central Luzon.]

Opening remarks

Emerlinda Roman
Chancellor
University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

Sa okasyong ito ng pagdaraos ng kumperensiya tungkol sa "Alternatibong Istratehiya para sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan (Rural Development)," *nais kong batiin ang Dalubhasaan na pinamumunuan ni Dekano Paz, lalung-lalo na ang mga mananaliksik at mga iskolar na kalahok sa proyektong ito.*

Bayaan ninyong balikan ko ang panahong ang proyektong ito ay bago pa lang pinaplano. Hindi tuwiran ang aking pakikilahok sa pagpaplano ng proyekto. Nagkataon lang na noong 1989, noong iniharap sa Board of Regents (BOR) *ang proposal para sa pagsasagawa ng* joint research project *ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas at Unibersidad ng Amsterdam, ako ang kalihim ng* Board. *Natatandaan ko, maraming naging diskusyon ukol sa proyekto.*

Tulad na nga nang nabanggit kanina ni Dekano Paz, noong una ay nangangamba siya na baka hindi naman masyadong makatutulong sa atin ang proyektong ito.

Kabilang sa mga tinalakay ng BOR ang mga sumusunod: ang mga layunin ng proyekto, ang mga benepisyo o kabutihang maidudulot nito sa dalawang panig (sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas at Unibersidad ng Amsterdam), ang kwestiyon sa pondo, atbp. Doon ko napag-alaman kung ano ang gagawin at hindi gagawin ng proyekto. Maraming isyu na naging punto ng talakayan. Dalawang beses nagpulong ang BOR bago nabigyan ng go-signal *ang proyekto.*

Matapos maaprubahan ang proyekto, paminsan-minsan ay nakakatanggap ako ng balita tungkol dito. Masasabi kong talagang nagtrabaho nang husto si Prop. Arcinas para maisaayos ang pondo ng proyekto sa Department of Budget and Management. *Lagi niya kaming dinadalaw sa Quezon Hall para alamin ang* status *ng pondo. Nang ako ay maging* Chancellor, *paminsan-minsan ay nakakatanggap ako ng report at ebalwasyon sa takbo ng proyekto.*

Ngayon, dalawang taon pagkatapos na maaprubahan ang proyekto, ang mga mananaliksik at iskolar na kasama sa proyektong ito ay handa nang ibahagi sa atin ang panimulang resulta ng kanilang pag-aaral upang ito ay matalakay ng mga akademiko at ng mga policymaker.

Binabati ko ang lahat ng mga kasama at nakilahok sa proyektong ito. Mamunga sana nang lubusan ang magiging diskusyon dito sa dalawang araw na kumperensiyang ating gagawin. Ang maganda pa rito ay nagsama-sama ang mga iskolar, mga mananaliksik, mga miyembro ng nongovernment organizations (NGOs), *mga* policymaker *upang magbigay ng kani-kanilang mga pananaw kaya't naniniwala ako at umaasa na maganda ang kahihinatnan ng proyektong ito.*

Ngayon ko lang nakita ang mga naisulat na resulta dito at sa tingin ko ay maraming mahahalagang isyu na maaaring maging punto ng talakayan. At ang akin pang isang kasiyahan ay nakikita ko ang bagong sigla na ibinibigay nito ngayon sa Dalubhasaan sa maraming bagay tulad ng pagtuturo, pananaliksik at pagpapaunlad ng pasilidad. Patuloy ang suportang ibibigay ng aming tanggapan sa Quezon Hall sa Dalubhasaan, kay Dekano Paz at sa mga kasama namin sa Dalubhasaan lalo na sa mga mananaliksik at iskolar dahil ito ang gusto naming itaguyod dito sa Unibersidad, ang scholarship *at* academic excellence.

[On the occasion of this conference on *Alternative Rural Development Strategies*, I would like to greet this scholarly community headed by Dean Paz, especially the researchers and participants of this project.

Let me recall the time when this project was still being planned. In 1989, I was the Secretary of the Board of Regents and it was at that time when the proposal to undertake a joint research project with the University of Amsterdam was submitted to the Board. There were a lot of discussions about the project.

As was mentioned by Dean Paz, at the beginning she doubted if the project would be beneficial to us.

I was there when the Board of Regents discussed this particular issue. There were many points for discussion. These included the project objectives, the benefits that will go to the two participating universities, the components of the project, the question of funding, etc. It was out of all of these discussions that I got to learn about this particular project--what exactly it would do and what it would not do. It took two Board meetings for the project to get the go-signal.

After the approval was obtained from the Board of Regents, I would occasionally hear about the project. I must say that Prof. Fe Arcinas really worked hard for it. Immediately after its approval, Prof. Arcinas worked for the release of the funding of the project from the Department of Budget and Management. She would always visit us at the Quezon Hall to find out the status of the funding and other pertinent matters. When I became Chancellor, I would occasionally get their progress and evaluation reports.

Now, two years after the proposal was approved, the researchers and scholars are ready to share with us their initial findings and to subject these to further discussions with fellow academics and policymakers.

I would like to greet all the researchers and participants of this project. May all the discussions throughout the two-day conference be fruitful. What is heartening to note is that, in this conference, scholars, researchers, members of nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and policymakers have come together in order to share and discuss their views. That is why I am optimistic about the outcome of the project.

This is the first time that I have seen the output of the project and I think that many interesting issues will be raised from the research findings. It is a pleasure to see in this scholarly gathering a renewed enthusiasm in teaching, research and physical development in the College. Our office in Quezon Hall will continue to support the College, Dean Paz, the researchers and scholars, because they are promoting what we want to uphold in the university: scholarship and academic excellence.]

Welcome Remarks

Ma. Cynthia Rose Banzon Bautista
Project Coordinator
University of the Philippines
and University of Amsterdam Joint Research Project
on Agrarian Issues in Central Luzon

The purpose of this conference is to share the findings of several researches conducted in the last two years and to generate discussion on some of the issues emanating from the studies. The researches were undertaken by a team of faculty members from the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy in partnership with the Center for Asian Studies of the University of Amsterdam.

The aim of the joint project between the two institutions is to give faculty members from the different social science disciplines the opportunity to work together and learn in the process of engaging in full-time field research. I think this was the first time the University released faculty members completely from teaching.

When we first began working together, we differed not only in disciplinal background and in research experience but also in the level of exposure to rural issues. Thus, the process of forming the team and leveling off started with conceptualizing problems which were of interest to the individual.

I think we achieved some level of interdisciplinarity in the process of refining our individual research problems. Various conceptualization workshops where we critiqued each other's plans, by ourselves or with resource persons, facilitated this process.

Only in the second year did we pursue a common research agenda as a team. Nevertheless, the studies undertaken individually were subjected to all sorts of discussions. Throughout regular discussion sessions and exposures to the field, the problems initially conceptualized by the individual were reconceptualized by the group. The links among the researches began to emerge. All of the studies, in varying degrees, dealt with alternative programs or organizations in the rural areas. Four of them dealt with cooperative organizations, while the other four focused on land transfers and land conversion.

Depending on how one looks at it, cooperatives can be considered alternatives to the failed state-coops of the past. They are also alternatives to the previous efforts of the population, especially the poor, to make a living.

The cooperative module will discuss, among others, issues of empowerment, a much abused term. At this point, it is difficult to define empowerment just as it is hard to define other relevant concepts like sustainability and replicability.

The final module of this conference is based on studies of land conversion, land reform and the landless. These studies were undertaken, of course, at the micro level. Given the shrinking and fragmentation of our ricelands and the swelling of the ranks of landless laborers, we hope to be able to address some of these problems and stimulate a discussion on alternative structures, strategies and perspectives. Hence, the theme of this conference is *Alternative Rural Development Strategies: Findings from the Field.*

Welcome to our conference.