



# CORDILLERA RESEARCH BRIEFS

June 2003

Vol. VI, Series No. 1

## RESEARCH ON THE CORDILLERA AT UP BAGUIO: THE CORDILLERA STUDIES CENTER TURNS 23

The Cordillera Studies Center had its beginning as the research component of the Development Studies Program of the then Division of Social Sciences. The M.A. Social and Development Studies was the Program's curricular component.

Among the key concepts underlying the operations of the Center were:

- A multi-disciplinary perspective that will guide the research agenda;
- The close linkage with local communities to provide the critical anchor that will enable the Center to tackle social issues confronting the Region, and;
- A vision of social science practice relevant to the process of social transformation.

### ITS ESTABLISHMENT

On June 26, 1980 the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines, in its 928th meeting, established the Cordillera Studies Center "as the research and extension arm of the Division of Social Sciences."

The Center's objectives, as re-expressed in 1993 are:

- To provide a venue for the exercise of the faculty mandate to do research and extension;
- To contribute to internal faculty development;
- To encourage collaborative and multi-disciplinary research;
- To encourage attention to development issues with special focus on the needs and potentials of Cordillera communities; and
- To promote a continuing dialogue among academics, social science practitioners, government officials and communities

So from 1980 until 1998, the Center undertook its activities to fulfill this mandate.

### THE CSC AS RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ARM OF THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

During this period the Center, as an interdisciplinary research institution, focused on the development issues in the uplands relying mainly on the members of the Division of Social Sciences for its research personnel. Faculty from the Divisions of Natural Sciences, Humanities, SPEAR (Sports, Physical Education and Recreation), Management Sciences, and (the then) UPCB High School, were likewise tapped for specific researches.

In its first ten years, the Center primarily drew financial support from the Ford Foundation through three grants on Agroecosystems research: 1981-83, 1984-87 and 1987-1990. Through these grants, the Center established a strong link with the Southeast Asian Universities Agroecosystems Network (SUAN) being one of the Network's founding members.

In 1988, grant funds from the Asia Foundation augmented the Ford research funds for a project on "Issues on Cordillera Autonomy." This project gave birth to a continuing research theme on Governance and Public Policy. A grant from the Department of Agriculture (DA) for a Land Tenure Study followed. Then two grants from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Region 1 for Population, Resources and Environment (Phase I and Phase II) initiated the research program on Environment and Resources.

In 1990, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) supported the research project entitled "Ibaloy Customary Law."

By the second decade, the Center embarked on a research program on Natural Resource Management with funds provided by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. These are Natural Resource Management Program (or NRMP) 1, 1992-1994, and NRMP 2, 1997-2001.

Alongside these larger programs, smaller research studies were conducted on economic, political and social institutions of local communities, indigenous knowledge and world views, local history, health, women and gender issues.

Even while the Center undertook funded research on social science issues in upland development, individual faculty interests on research on the Cordillera flourished, in particular, among faculty researchers from the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Division.

Research on the Cordillera at UP Baguio obtained a boost in 1995. The Cordillera Studies Program (CSP), with funding support from the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UPCIDS), was established. During the CSP's first two years, research was undertaken under three components: Environmental Studies, Cultural Studies and Development Studies.

### A COLLEGE RESEARCH CENTER

The experience of UP Baguio with the conduct of the Cordillera Studies Program contributed to a clear recognition of a need for a College-level structure to direct and coordinate inter-college research programs. This College-level mechanism would give full attention to strengthening the research and publications program of the five academic divisions of the College. In recognition of the notable performance of the Center, it was deemed appropriate to recommend that the CSC be transformed into the College Research Center. Hence, on March 18, 1997, the College Assembly unanimously endorsed this proposal. The Center began operating as the College Research Center in June 1998.

To mark this significant change, the Center launched the Research Dialogue Series in AY 1998-1999 with eight monthly sessions. This was followed in AY 1999-2000 by seven round table

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discussions on the following themes: Local History and Institutions; Governance and Public Policy; Indigenous Knowledge, Philosophy and World Views; Environment and Resources—Social Science Issues; Living Traditions—Art, Language, Literature and Communication and Women and Gender Studies.

#### PUBLICATIONS

Together with these research programs, the Center produces an array of materials for its publications program. To date, there are 14 monographs, 30 working papers, 12 issue papers, a good number of research reports and conference proceedings. In 1994, the Center expanded its publications program with the production of a popular version of research findings in the CSC Research Briefs.

#### LIBRARY SERVICES

To support research activities, the Center runs the CSC Library, which is both a research and special collection

library for books, non-book materials, unpublished sources, maps, photographs and slides on Cordillera communities. The library holdings have steadily accumulated into an incomparable collection of Cordillera ethnographic materials on development issues, economic change, social transformation and upland resource management. The library now serves as a Cordillera regional information, resource and referral center.

#### CSC AND ITS PARTNERS

Whatever the Cordillera Studies Center and the faculty of UP Baguio have achieved in the 23 years that have so quickly passed is owed to the partners of the CSC: The UP Baguio faculty, researchers and administration. Its research partners: DA, NEDA, DOH, PLAN International, DENR, BSU, CLSU, PESAM, now SECAM, to name several. The networks and linkages that have supported our publications and information exchange: SUAN,

HARRDEC, Environmental Education Network, Philippine Social Science Council, Philippine Health Social Science Association. The Research Affiliates from foreign universities who have brought fresh perspectives to our research work. The funding agencies who have provided the material resources to undertake the Center's various projects.

Most importantly, the communities who have welcomed CSC researchers into their homes and allowed them to 'intrude' into their lives.

Twenty-three years ago, there was not a single research institution in this Region dedicated to studying the Cordillera. This is no longer true today. The Center is the first among several research groups focusing their attention on Cordillera issues.

## LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

2001 *Fellow Traveler: Essays on Filipino Communism*/Patricio N. Abinales.

2001 *The Future in the Balance: Essays on Globalization and Resistance*/Walden Bello.

2001 *The Philippine Economy: Alternatives for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*/Dante B. Canlas and Shigeaki Fujisaki, editors.

2001 *Introductory Mathematical Economics*/ Rolando Danao.

2001 *Reflections of Sociology and Philippine Society*/Randolf S. David.

2001 *The Filipino Family*/Belen Medina. – 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

2001 *Power in the Village: Agrarian Reform, Rural Politics, Institutional Change and Globalization*/Horacio R. Morales, Jr. [et al.], editors.

2001 *The Moro Islamic Challenge: Constitutional Rethinking for the Mindanao Peace Process*/Soliman M. Santos, Jr.

2001 *The Communist Party of the Philippines 1968-1993: A Story of Its Theory and Practice*/Kathleen Weekley.

2000 *Manuvu Social Organization*/Arsenio E. Manuel.

1999 *Causes of Poverty: Myths, Facts & Policies: A Philippine Study*/Arsenio M. Balisacan and Shigeaki Fujisaki, editors.

1999 *The Origins of Metropolitan Manila: A Political and Social Analysis*/Manuel A. Caoli.

1999 *The Colonial Iron Horse: Railroads and Regional Development in the Philippines, 1875-1935*/Arturo G. Corpuz.

1998 *Images of State Power: Essays on Philippine Politics from the Margins*/ Patricio N. Abinales.

1998 *The Philippines into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Future Scenarios for Governance, Democracy and Development 1998-2025*/ Jose V. Abueva

1997 *An Economic History of the Philippines*/ O.D. Corpuz.

1997 *Democratization: Philippine Perspectives*/Felipe B. Miranda, editor.

1997 *Explorations in Social Theory and Philippine Ethnography*/Raul Pertierra.

1996 *Choice, Growth and Development: Emerging and Enduring Issues*/ Emmanuel S. De Dios and Raul V. Fabella, editors.

1995 *Pinatubo and The Politics of Lahar: Eruption and Aftermath*/Kelvin S. Rodolfo.

1994 *Poverty, Urbanization and Development Policy: A Philippine Perspective*/Arsenio M. Balisacan.

1992 *The Textiles of Southern Philippines: The Textile Traditions of the Bagobo, Mandaya and Bilaan from Their Beginnings to the 1990s.*

1984 *An Analysis of the Philippine Economic Crisis*/Emmanuel S. De Dios, editor.

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For further information on this study, please contact:

THE DIRECTOR  
Cordillera Studies Center  
UP College Baguio  
2600 Baguio City  
Tel/Fax : (63) (74) 442-57-94  
Email: cordillerastudies@yahoo.com

Director: Lorelei C. Mendoza  
University Researchers: Alicia G. Follosco  
Marion Difuntorum  
Accounting Clerk: Gloria Q. Rodriguera  
Information Officer: Giovannie R. Rualo  
Clerk: Rouena B. Aguto

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