



PRESS RELEASE

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PINOY YOUTH BAROMETER CONFERENCE 2013

According to data compiled by the National Statistics Office, the Philippines has one of the youngest populations in the world. Filipinos aged 10 to 29 comprise approximately twenty percent of the total population of the Philippines. The number of young Filipinos is also expected to reach its peak in the following years. Initiatives designed to address the issues of youth unemployment, underemployment, and democratic disenfranchisement are thus becoming key policy components of the emerging Philippine development agenda.

On July 19, 2013, the Asian Institute of Management Policy Center, in cooperation with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the Philippine Economic Society, will hold the 2013 PINOY YOUTH BAROMETER CONFERENCE: Prospects for Education, Employment, and Migration. The conference is comprised of a series of research papers on policy issues, such as education, employment, and migration that directly impact on the youth.

Arrested Development? An Empirical Analysis of Philippine Youth Migration Intentions, a study conducted by the AIM Policy Center, employs statistical techniques to identify and measure the factors that influence the decision to migrate of young Filipinos. The study builds upon the data compiled through the Pinoy Youth Barometer, a nationwide survey network that is comprised of academic institutions throughout the Philippines. The resulting youth database has a sample of over 2,000 students from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The AIM Policy Center was able to empirically identify and determine the strength and direction of several push, pull, and mitigating factors that affect the decision to migrate of in-school youth. The study reveals that the factors that are strongly and positively related to the decision to migrate are the presence of family members and friends in the Philippines who encourage migration, the presence of family members abroad who encourage migration, the desire to start a business, and academic competitiveness. The following are several of the results generated by the study.

- A student with relatives abroad who encourage migration is 1.67 times more likely to have an intention to migrate compared to the baseline student. *67% increase in baseline likelihood.*
- A student with friends abroad who encourage migration is 1.72 times more likely to have an intention to migrate compared to the baseline student. *72% increase in baseline likelihood.*
- A student with relatives in the Philippines who encourage migration is 2.35 times more likely to have an intention to migrate compared to the baseline student. *135% increase in baseline likelihood*
- A student with friends in the Philippines who encourage migration is 1.73 times more likely to have an intention to migrate compared to the baseline student. *73% increase in baseline likelihood.*

- A student who witnessed cheating in local elections is 1.35 times more likely to have an intention to migrate compared to the baseline student. *35% increase in baseline likelihood.*
- A student with relatives and friends abroad who encourage migration as well as relatives and friends in the Philippines who encourage migration is 11.75 times more likely to have an intention to migrate compared to the baseline student.

These results indicate that among the key determinants of youth migration is the presence and strength of international familial networks. The study also discusses the impact on migration intentions of witnessing cheating in local elections, the receipt of remittances, and the willingness to participate in a wider array of jobs on migration intentions.

The ASEAN's pursuit of greater regional economic integration places the issue of migration at the forefront of regional development policy discussions. The study explores the possible implications on youth education, employment, and migration preferences of the emergence of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015. Greater labor mobility of skilled laborers and professionals within the ASEAN region is expected to exacerbate the push and pull factors identified in the study.

Also included in the conference are **The Filipino Youth and the Employment-Migration Nexus** by the Scalabrini Center, **Some Empirical Notes on *Istambay* Research** by Dr. Clarence Batan of UST, **Youth Migration and Employment in the Philippines** by Dr. Alvin Ang of the Philippine Economic Society, **Correlates of Choices of High School Students** by Prof. Gladys Navarro of Saint Louis University, **Building Capacities of the Youth** by Prof. Zandro Estella of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), **The Youth Lens** by Prof. Hilda San Gabriel of PUP, and **College Students' Voice in Silence** by Prof. Freddie Qunito of the Far Eastern University.

The 2013 PINOY YOUTH BAROMETER CONFERENCE: Prospects for Education, Employment, and Migration is the culmination of the Youth Barometer project between the AIM Policy Center and UNICEF. The policy agenda subsumed within the project includes the Pinoy Youth Barometer and a policy discussion on Inequality and Child Outcomes. For more information, contact Mr. David Barua Yap II through email at dyap@aim.edu or call (02)892-4011 local 5110.