

EDITORIAL BOARD
Mercedes B. Concepcion
Peter D. Garrucho
Alejandro N. Herrin
Ernesto M. Pernia
Ma. Socorro Camacho Reyes

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Virgilio F. Lacaba

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Cynthia Alberto Diaz

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dario B. Noche

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES
Roderick Toledo
Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Wilma V. Lacaba
Raymond Lim Toledo

WRITERS
Perla Aragon Choudhury
Bernard Supetran
Roberto C. Navarro
Haydee U. Parras
Michele T. Logarta

PROJECT ASSISTANTS
Jocelyn Ladisla



News
& Features
Service
for the
Mass Media

Email: vflacaba@yahoo.com
Tel.: (02)6350247; Fax: (02)6319765

PDMS-11 / 2005
ISSUE EDITOR: A. MA. GUERRERO

PDMS-11 / 2005

Release Date: January 20, 2005

CONTENTS

YOUNG CONGRESSMAN BATS FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

by Reynan T. Soledad

"We intend to raise the noise level of population debate." — Rep. Remulla

CHILDREN: QUALITY VS QUANTITY

by A. San Agustin

Poor health of a child may mean more children born.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS GAINS GROUND

by Antonio Ortiz

New methodologies on reproductive health research are more participatory.

RATING THE PERFORMANCE OF PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS

by Anthony Lim

"Productivity and efficiency of government agencies were not radically improved to cut waste, corruption and misuse of scarce resources..."

EMPOWER THE WOMEN, INVOLVE THE MEN

by Michele T. Logarta

There is a renewed call to involve husbands in family planning and maternal health.

C.E.O.s CALL FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

by Perla Aragon Choudhury

"One million jobs a year will make no effect if our 2.6 percent population growth rate leads to two million births per year."

/...more

EDITORIAL BOARD
Mercedes B. Concepcion
Peter D. Garrucho
Alejandro N. Herrin
Ernesto M. Pernia
Ma. Socorro Camacho Reyes

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Virgilio F. Lacaba

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Cynthia Alberto Diaz

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dario B. Noche

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES
Roderick Toledo
Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Wilma V. Lacaba
Raymond Lim Toledo

WRITERS
Perla Aragon Choudhury
Bernard Supetran
Roberto C. Navarro
Haydee U. Parras
Michele T. Logarta

PROJECT ASSISTANTS
Jocelyn Ladisla



News
& Features
Service
for the
Mass Media

Email: vflacaba@yahoo.com
Tel.: (02)6350247; Fax: (02)6319765

PDMS-11 / 2005
ISSUE EDITOR: A. MA. GUERRERO

"We intend to raise the noise level of population debate." — Rep. Remulla

Young congressman bats for reproductive health

By Tito Mads

PopDev Media Service

With all youthful enthusiasm, the broadcaster turned politician had descended upon the household—or what passed for it—in a Cavite town to ask for their votes. But the parents were, in the young man's words, "catatonic."

There were so many children running around the dirt floor, and the political neophyte then seeking his first term in Congress in the second district of the province—Gilbert C. Remulla—learned that the ninth child had just died. They were squatters from Metro Manila who had been dumped on this hillside.

It was a wake-up call for Remulla, 34, head of the LDP Magdalo Party in Cavite and for eight years an ABS-CBN news anchor during the 1990s. Now one of the bright lights of the House of Representatives, articulate and personable, Remulla is serving his second term as congressman of Cavite's second district.

He never saw that unfortunate family again, and learned that they had transferred or been dumped elsewhere again. As he studied the population program, Remulla, married to the former

/...more

Georgina Roa and the father of one, became a staunch advocate of family planning, responsible parenthood, and reproductive health.

In an interview, Remulla said a strong population program would be one that is "effective and realistic, based on education and freedom of choice, coupled with the right information."

Right information, he added, would include the pros and cons of the modern methods of family planning, artificial and natural. The information will help educate and enlighten couples who will make the right decision.

"The methods should be affordable, if not free, for those below the poverty line and should involve not just women but men as well," Remulla added.

As for sex education, this is not "sexy" enough as far as the media are concerned, the former media man believes: "It is not news. It is not worth covering. Sadly the only reason it is talked about right now is because of the two-child policy (of Rep. Edsel Lagman), which is actually a complex bill."

The Lagman bill that has aroused much controversy actually "seeks to create Population Management Councils in every barangay which will encourage couples to limit family size to two," Remulla said.

The bill also proposes disincentives for those couples with more than two children—such as no free medical treatment in government hospitals for mothers expecting a third child. And this did not sit well with many commentators.

"I have talked to Rep. Lagman and we intend to raise the noise level, the volume of population debate," Remulla said. "We need a comprehensive population management program. That's what the bill is all about, as we cannot afford to have such a high fertility rate."

Every time he rides around in his Cavite district, as well as in Metro Manila, the congressman sees "children everywhere, especially in poverty-stricken areas." This only strengthens his convictions regarding population and development.

He deals with the problem everyday. Parents come to him saying there's not enough food, and the district office staff report to him and tell him stories. Extreme cases would be the mother who died giving birth to her 17th child, and the woman who killed her children because she could not provide for them.

"So many children and you ask yourself why," Remulla concluded. "The only reason is they (parents) really lack access to services." — *PopDev Media Service*

EDITORIAL BOARD
Mercedes B. Concepcion
Peter D. Garrucho
Alejandro N. Herrin
Ernesto M. Pernia
Ma. Socorro Camacho Reyes

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Virgilio F. Lacaba

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Cynthia Alberto Diaz

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dario B. Noche

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES
Roderick Toledo
Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Wilma V. Lacaba
Raymond Lim Toledo

WRITERS
Perla Aragon Choudhury
Bernard Supetran
Roberto C. Navarro
Haydee U. Parras
Michele T. Logarta

PROJECT ASSISTANTS
Jocelyn Ladisla



News
& Features
Service
for the
Mass Media

Email: vflacaba@yahoo.com
Tel.: (02)6350247; Fax: (02)6319765

PDMS-11 / 2005
ISSUE EDITOR: A. MA. GUERRERO

Poor health of children may mean more children born.

Children: Quality vs. quantity

By A. San Agustin

PopDev Media Service

Dear parent: Do you consider your children "human capital assets"?

Many Filipino parents do. It's part of the Filipino culture. Going by the term "human capital" as against financial capital, parents look upon their children as investments for their future.

Parents invest in their children's health and education, primarily. When these kids grow up they are, in turn, expected to take care of their parents. ("It's a moral obligation," as one mother once said.)

Spoken or unspoken, the objective here is to produce quality children who will hopefully become professionals when they graduate. With a big quantity of children (read: a large family size), the aspirations become more difficult.

A professor from the Economics Department of the Ateneo de Manila University, Leonardo A. Lanzona, has written a research-based study along these lines; it is entitled "Population and the Economic Value of Human Capital."

/...more

Serving as the author's framework was a Cebu health and nutrition survey first undertaken during the early 1980s, and then followed up until 1995.

The study first analyzed the development of children, and then was expanded to include other issues related to health, nutrition and population.

A slew of factors subsequently came into play: birth weight and age of gestation (when the fetus is growing), infant feeding, growth, illness and survival, maternal diet and nutritional status, and child spacing.

The study indicated two stages: Parents first determine the health of the previous child, and then they decide to have another child depending on the health status of the previous child.

"Parents decide based on a number of factors that affect the future costs and benefits of having children," Lanzona said. "For instance, parents of children with lower birth weights can decide to have more children if the value of human capital is reduced by lower child survival rates."

On the other hand, if the previous child is healthy, chances are the parents will opt not to have another baby right away.

Now here's the quality vs. quantity equation.

"If parents prefer to have more investments in quantity, poor health will mean more children born," the author noted. "But if the parents prefer to have more investments in quality, poor health will mean more investments in health and less demand for children."

The more educated the mother is, the greater the likelihood she will have less children. The effect of the father's education is likewise positive.

A related consideration that influences the number of children is place of residence. If the parents live near public schools or the *poblacion* (urban center), they tend to have fewer children. "Access to human capital facilities is often more difficult in the rural areas than in the urban areas," the author said.

The higher the birth weight of the child (healthy baby), the lesser will be the number of additional children. "This suggests that parents are more likely to invest in the quantity of children as the health of the children deteriorates and the initial chances of their survival diminish," Lanzona noted.

He added, "The idea is that improving the health of children will lead to greater chances of survival, a higher value for human capital and a lower demand for children."

Thus, the main finding "is that improving access to health, schooling and other human capital investments in children will significantly reduce the demand for more children."

/...more

Just as important in lowering fertility, the author concluded, are providing subsidies and income supports for the households, effective anti-poverty programs, and a strong population program.

— *PopDev Media Service*

(30)

/...more

EDITORIAL BOARD
Mercedes B. Concepcion
Peter D. Garrucho
Alejandro N. Herrin
Ernesto M. Pernia
Ma. Socorro Camacho Reyes

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Virgilio F. Lacaba

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Cynthia Alberto Diaz

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dario B. Noche

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES
Roderick Toledo
Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Wilma V. Lacaba
Raymond Lim Toledo

WRITERS
Perla Aragon Choudhury
Bernard Supetran
Roberto C. Navarro
Haydee U. Parras
Michele T. Logarta

PROJECT ASSISTANTS
Jocelyn Ladisla



News
& Features
Service
for the
Mass Media

Email: vflacaba@yahoo.com
Tel.: (02)6350247; Fax: (02)6319765

PDMS-11 / 2005
ISSUE EDITOR: A. MA. GUERRERO

New methodologies in reproductive health research are more participatory.

“Women's rights” cause gains ground

By Anthony Lim
PopDev Media Service

Woman and man are like the wings of a bird. Clip one wing, and the bird cannot fly. Weigh down both wings, as what happens to a bird that gets trapped in an oil spill, and you have one practically helpless bird.

History is replete with accounts of "a clipped wing" or inequality between men and women, with the scale tipped usually in favor of the masculine gender. Men have traditionally dominated women, with some cultures treating women as chattel. To the extent that inequitable relationships between men and women have been allowed to exist, humanity's progress has been held back.

Sociologist Sylvia H. Guerrero's paper, entitled "Gender in Population and Development: Gender Makes a Difference," is included in the recently launched 2nd edition of the book *The Ties that Bind: Population and Development in the Philippines*, a publication of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Policy Center supported by the Philippine Center for Population and

/...more

Development (PCPD) and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Dr. Guerrero gives us a perspective that goes back about six decades, and then zooms in to recent years:

"The long and arduous struggle of women for gender equality the world over achieved significant results in the last half of the 20th century. In the United Nations, a major player in the development field, women's issues emerged as a distinctive category during the Second Development Decade—the decade of the 1970s.

"In 1945, the UN Charter committed itself to this equality between women and men during its opening session. However, three decades had to pass before the UN world assembly drew global attention again to the women's plight by proclaiming 1975 as the International Year for Women and 1975-1985 as the Decade for Women."

On Sept. 13, 1994, 184 governments adopted the Programme of Action (POA) produced in the historic Cairo Consensus, forged during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Governments committed themselves to the principle that "empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic, and health status is a highly important end in itself...essential for the achievement of sustainable development."

Governments affirmed women's rights to reproductive health, defined as "a state of complete physical and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and all its functions and process."

Guerrero observed that since 1975, with the UN declaration of the International Year of Women, the cause of women in the Philippines has steadily gained ground. A landmark achievement was Republic Act 7192, passed in 1992, known as the *Women in Development and Nation-Building Act*. It promotes "the integration of women as full and equal partners of men in development and nation-building."

In reproductive health research, new methodologies being used are more participatory, gender and culture-sensitive, thereby bringing out women's experiences, interests and needs in a way that traditional research methodologies do not. The author noted: "...Interactive and dialogic interviews eliminate the hierarchical relationship between the researcher and the researched...It is in this sense that feminist research goes beyond knowledge generation into advocacy and action." — *PopDev Media Service*

EDITORIAL BOARD
Mercedes B. Concepcion
Peter D. Garrucho
Alejandro N. Herrin
Ernesto M. Pernia
Ma. Socorro Camacho Reyes

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Virgilio F. Lacaba

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Cynthia Alberto Diaz

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dario B. Noche

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES
Roderick Toledo
Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Wilma V. Lacaba
Raymond Lim Toledo

WRITERS
Perla Aragon Choudhury
Bernard Supetran
Roberto C. Navarro
Haydee U. Parras
Michele T. Logarta

PROJECT ASSISTANTS
Jocelyn Ladisla



News
& Features
Service
for the
Mass Media

Email: vflacaba@yahoo.com
Tel.: (02)6350247; Fax: (02)6319765

PDMS-11 / 2005
ISSUE EDITOR: A. MA. GUERRERO

"Productivity and efficiency of government agencies were not radically improved to cut waste, corruption and misuse of scarce resources..."

Rating the performance of previous administrations

By Antonio Ortiz
PopDev Media Service

From 1975 to 2000, how have the previous governments fared with regard to the citizens' welfare and development?

Mario M. Taguiwalo, former undersecretary of health, provides some answers in the recently launched second edition of the book "The Ties That Bind: Population and Development in the Philippines," published by the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Policy Center with support from the Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD) and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Citing the October 2001 discussion paper of Cayetano Paderanga, *Recent Fiscal Developments in the Philippines*, Taguiwalo said that as of 2000, total public sector debt amounted to P3,743 billion, with about 56 percent owed to internal creditors and 43 percent to external creditors.

Of these, "substantial portions of the debt were able to create income-producing capacities, which contributed to the growing size of the economy."

/...more

Taguiwalo gives as examples power and energy projects, roads, bridges, airports, expansion of the nationwide network of rural health units and barangay health stations. In education, there was comprehensive revision of the elementary school curriculum, training of teachers, publication of textbooks, and construction of school buildings.

That's the plus side. On the downside, "some parts of the national debt were wrongly spent, wasted or stolen...For these misused debt-financed expenditures, their expected income streams are missing but their debt service requirements are still very much present."

Based on data from the National Statistics Office, the author said, "...over the 10-year period from 1988 to 1997, income equality in fact worsened, with the 70 percent of families who share among themselves just a little over 30 percent of total income losing ground to the top 30 percent of families that already capture nearly 70 percent of total income."

Taguiwalo added, "This fundamental inequality may partly explain why it is difficult to raise government revenues (rich, powerful people resist), and why it is difficult to make government expenditures pro-poor (rich, powerful people influence government to address their concerns first)."

The real value and benefits from government revenues and expenditures have been eroded by waste and corruption: "The Office of the Ombudsman estimates that in the 20 years between 1977-1997, about \$48 million was lost due to corruption, an amount that exceeds total foreign debt in 1997 of \$40.6 million."

Population dynamics then come into play, and the overall picture is not positive.

"Total government expenditures have remained practically stagnant in real and per-capita in terms of inflation and population growth are factored in, although government spending for social services increased well ahead of inflation and population growth."

In 1999, government spent less than P10,000 per Filipino per year. And this was "severely inadequate for a poor Filipino household that requires subsidized basic health, basic education, protection against crimes, and participation in essential duties of citizenship."

If one were to combine both the effects of reduced population growth and a more pro-poor public expenditure, the author calculated, the resulting per-capita spending for the bottom 30 percent of the population could have reached P28,556. This was not attained from 1975 to 1999 "...despite changes in Presidents, revolutions, Constitutions and several generations of leaders in Philippine institutions from government to media to the Church."

Taguiwalo concluded: "Population growth was not significantly increased to enable the economy and government to get ahead and invest at levels higher than the demands of current

/...more

consumption...Productivity and efficiency of government agencies were not radically improved to cut waste, corruption and misuse of scarce resources for a large population and secure higher benefits from current per-capita spending." — *PopDev Media Service*

(30)

/...more

EDITORIAL BOARD
Mercedes B. Concepcion
Peter D. Garrucho
Alejandro N. Herrin
Ernesto M. Pernia
Ma. Socorro Camacho Reyes

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Virgilio F. Lacaba

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Cynthia Alberto Diaz

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dario B. Noche

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES
Roderick Toledo
Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Wilma V. Lacaba
Raymond Lim Toledo

WRITERS
Perla Aragon Choudhury
Bernard Supeltran
Roberto C. Navarro
Haydee U. Parras
Michele T. Logarta

PROJECT ASSISTANTS
Jocelyn Ladisla



News
& Features
Service
for the
Mass Media

Email: vflacaba@yahoo.com
Tel.: (02)6350247; Fax: (02)6319765

PDMS-11 / 2005
ISSUE EDITOR: A. MA. GUERRERO

There is a renewed call to involve husbands in family planning and maternal health.

Empower the women, involve the men

By Michele T. Logarta
PopDev Media Service

The family planning program of the Philippines has always been geared towards choice, says University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI) Director Nimfa Ojena. "Couples are given the option of how many children they would like to have, and when they would like to have them. Women are considered the equal partners of men."

The reality, however, is that men usually make the decisions when it comes to the number of children to have. Men have also always left the responsibility of contraception to women. "It's a woman's thing. Men are supposed to take care of bringing home the bacon." This is still the prevailing mindset.

To increase participation of men in family planning, there must be empowerment of women, Dr. Ojena said in an interview. "When women are empowered, they will be more involved in decisions regarding reproduction."

In the 1990s, there was a call towards more male involvement in family planning. Even if the program focused more on women, it was understood that women do not have much say, as in many parts of the world, regarding family size and other reproductive issues.

/...more

“Besides empowerment of women, we need to look at the other side of the couple and try to get them into the program,” the UPPI director observed. “There are programs that the Philippine government is sponsoring, and through some funding agencies also, that promote male participation in family planning through, initially, information and training.”

She added: “It’s making them (the men) understand that they are part of the reproductive decision. It means giving them the correct information about family planning methods and reproductive health services that are available to them. It also involves networking through other men.”

Ojena cited one program in Nueva Vizcaya, which was particularly successful as far as getting men involved in promoting reproductive health. It was implemented among the males of an indigenous tribe in the mountains, where there was little access to medical services and where men usually now take on the role of midwives.

“This was particularly successful because the program got the influential men in the community involved,” Ojena said. “When they learned how to help deliver their own babies without endangering the lives of their wives, the men became empowered as well.”

Male involvement in family planning means more than just increasing the number of men using condoms and undergoing vasectomies, she noted.

Men play a critical role in encouraging and supporting their partners to use family planning, seek health care, and prevent sexually transmitted infections.

To promote more male involvement in reproductive decisions, there must be more programs that reach out to men with services and education that enable them to share in the responsibility for family planning and reproductive health.

In the past, particularly during the Marcos years, there was so much emphasis on numbers when looking at the population picture. Quantity and not quality was the focus, Ojena recalled.

“Now, with the reproductive health approach, we don’t just look at the number of pregnancies,” she said. “Is the mother healthy? Is the baby healthy? Is the father healthy?”

The approach widens the scope of the population program to include women’s health and safe motherhood, HIV/AIDS prevention, and promoting universal access to information and services.

Empowerment of women/men is the key to achieving family planning and reproductive health goals, Ojena concluded. — *PopDev Media Service*

(30)

/...more

EDITORIAL BOARD
Mercedes B. Concepcion
Peter D. Garrucho
Alejandro N. Herrin
Ernesto M. Pernia
Ma. Socorro Camacho Reyes

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Virgilio F. Lacaba

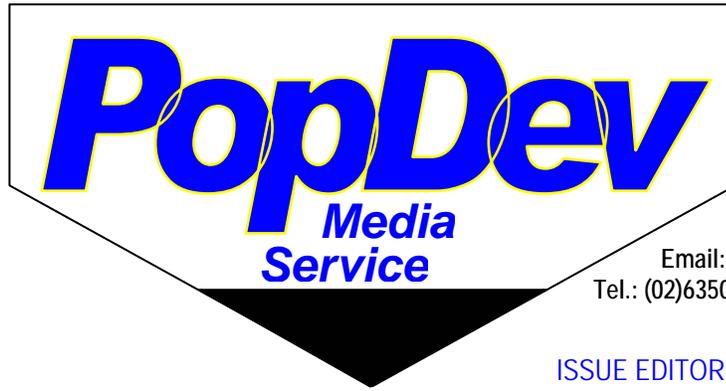
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Cynthia Alberto Diaz

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Dario B. Noche

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES
Roderick Toledo
Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Wilma V. Lacaba
Raymond Lim Toledo

WRITERS
Perla Aragon Choudhury
Bernard Supelran
Roberto C. Navarro
Haydee U. Parras
Michele T. Logarta

PROJECT ASSISTANTS
Jocelyn Ladisla



News
& Features
Service
for the
Mass Media

Email: vflacaba@yahoo.com
Tel.: (02)6350247; Fax: (02)6319765

PDMS-11 / 2005
ISSUE EDITOR: A. MA. GUERRERO

"One million jobs a year will make no effect if our 2.6 percent population growth rate leads to two million births per year."

CEOs call for social responsibility

By Perla Aragon-Choudhury
PopDev Media Service

"With the ongoing phase-out by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) of its contraceptive donations to the government's population program, it is up to us in the private sector to assume full responsibility to increase and refine our efforts. Or else, we all pay the price for overpopulation."

Business leader Donald Dee aired this warning during the recent CEO Forum held at the Philippine International Convention Center. Dee is a top official of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and a former president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP).

Another speaker, Guillermo Luz of the Makati Business Club, discussing education, also called attention to the population problem. He feared that the country's large population, when combined with poverty and the insufficient number of teachers, will block the millennium goal of universal education by 2015.

/...more

Luz said: "In some of our poorest regions—like the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Region 12 (Central Mindanao)—we see the relationship between dropout rates and poorer access to jobs. And how can we be more competitive when 11-13 years of basic schooling is a norm even in countries like Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia, while we have only about 10 years?"

The government alone cannot sustain increases in educational achievement by 2015, Luz noted. "Business, civil society, and institutions like the Church can be powerful tools of poverty reduction. We are grateful for the private sector and appeal to the business community to intensify and focus efforts on the areas we have set as goals. Over the next few years we will need to help the Department of Education and its Bridge Program. If knowledge is power, then education is empowerment."

In health, the social investment in health must strengthen the health service delivery system by local government units (LGU) and rural health units," Dee said.

He cited the Leaders for Health Project (LHP) of Pfizer, a member of the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF), which answers the priority need for sustainable health management. The Public Relations Society of the Philippines recently honored this innovative project on just its third year for developing a corps of competent and committed doctors, government and community leaders.

"Business must upscale and popularize programs that support the improvement of the capacity of stakeholders at the municipal level for effective and efficient mechanisms," Dee said.

Like the LCF members working for education, CEOs involved in the health sector have reached the consensus that controlling rapid population growth is a priority.

"One million jobs per year will make no effect if our 2.6 percent population growth rate leads to two million births per year," Dee stated. "Reproductive health suffers from a lack of a sense of urgency."

He added, "Company CEOs can do much to improve reproductive health and population policy. They can initiate discussions and raise concern for population matters. They can approach civil society and progressive sectors in the Church to share this concern to mainstream population issues."

The participants saw investing in effective and sustainable reproductive health programs as part of their core business. This would consist in pre-testing and institutionalizing comprehensive and operational reproductive or responsible parenthood programs in the workplace and in the communities where they operate.

/...more

The CEOs also tackled the following issues: gaps in government policy; service providers educating mothers on unwanted pregnancy so as to reduce the incidence of abortion; and efforts to prioritize the prevention of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

The forum participants crafted policy advocacy strategies to use advertisements, resources and influence to enlighten and educate people's decision-making in planning their families, as well as to promote the development of workplace health policies.

"HIV infection is increasing among our overseas contract workers and so we at PCCI and ECOP advocate the population agenda at the risk of being criticized," Dee concluded. — *PopDev Media Service*