



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**CENTER FOR  
INTEGRATIVE AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
STUDIES**

# **MINDANAO:**

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## **FRACTURED PROMISES, CONTINUING CHALLENGES**

**20 FEBRUARY 2020 & 13 MARCH 2020**

1:00-5:00 PM  
UP CIDS CONFERENCE HALL

# CONCEPT NOTE & FORUM OBJECTIVES

Since colonial times, Mindanao has been an enigma and a challenge for the Philippine national government and its attempts at nation building. Mindanao has always been an attractive national development project mainly due to its rich natural resources and generally hospitable climate. Efforts at assimilation and integration into the national polity and economy have been vigorously pursued prompting resistance from the local populations and their leaders. The full colonization of Mindanao was finally accomplished via the large-scale migration of settlers from the north, the aggressive entry of outside investments, large-scale development projects and often brutal politico-military interventions.

Despite these, the Mindanao regions continue to be a political, economic, social, and cultural conundrum that defies clear-cut and easy solutions. The presence of significant Islamic and indigenous populations provides a counterpoint to the predominantly Christian and modernity-oriented northern and central Philippines. Insurgencies arising from the conflicts spawned by class, ethnic, and religious differences have been features of Mindanao's history. Social exclusion and inequalities in the areas of health, education, and other essential services as well as lack of economic opportunities and political marginalization have yet to be addressed substantially and meaningfully.

It is in this context that the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) is organizing two half-day forums on 20 February 2020 and 13 March 2020. The UP CIDS, the UP System primary policy research unit, is mandated to "develop, organize, and manage research issues of national significance" utilizing an "integrated and collaborative approach" to address current national policy and development needs. The forum series aims to harness the research of the various UP CIDS programs conducting policy-oriented studies to examine some of the issues and concerns that define the Mindanao conundrum and arrive at recommendations addressed to the country's decision-makers and other stakeholders.

The forum has the following objectives:

1. To surface current issues and concerns of the Mindanao situation;
2. To highlight the interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary characteristics of the Mindanao situation;
3. To enable scholars from various disciplines to relate to each other and compare notes on their respective studies;
4. To enable academic researchers and practitioners on the ground to coordinate and validate their perspectives and study results; and
5. To bring to the attention of decision makers the issues and concerns of Mindanao peoples.

The participating UP CIDS programs are: (1) Islamic Studies Program; (2) Decolonial Studies Program; (3) Program on Escaping the Middle-Income Trap (EMIT); (4) Political Economy Program; (5) Assessment, Curriculum, and Technology Research Program (ACTRP), (6) Program on Alternative Development (AltDev); and (7) Program on Social and Political Change. The research presentations will be divided into two parts: (A) Political and Development Issues in Mindanao; (B) Issues specific to the Bangsamoro Administrative Region for Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)

## **A. Political and Development Issues in Mindanao (February 20, 2020)**

1. Transformational business partnership model in agribusiness ventures
2. Resource use policies and ancestral domain concerns
3. An overview of the Mindanao political economy
4. Experiences of EJK, the Marawi siege and martial law in Mindanao
5. Land struggles of indigenous women
6. The Lumad school as a struggle for land, life, and liberation

## **B. Issues confronting BARMM (March 13, 2020)**

1. The transition to BARMM and its implications
2. Decolonizing polity based on Muslim thought
3. Philippine Muslim history
4. Sustainability of Madrasah education
5. Policy review of BARMM Madaris education
6. Alternative delivery modes in BARMM education

# PROGRAM

## 20 FEBRUARY 2020

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)
12:00 NOON	REGISTRATION	
1:00	Welcome Remarks & Forum Overview	Teresa S. Encarnacion Tadem, Ph.D. Executive Director, UP CIDS
<b>PANEL 1: DEVELOPMENT</b> Moderator: Jose Monfred Sy, UP CIDS-Program on Alternative Development		
1:15	Going Against the Grain: The Unifrutti Transformational Business Partnership Model	Annette Balaoing-Pelkmans, Ph.D. Co-Convenor, UP CIDS - Escaping the Middle-Income Trap Chains for Change Program & Victor Adrian Pabilona, Head of the Corporate Social Responsibility of Unifrutti Tropical Philippines, Inc. (or Unifrutti).
1:35	Ancestral Domain and Resource Use Policies	Francisco 'Pancho' Lara Jr., Ph.D. Peace and Conflict Adviser, International Alert & UP Diliman Department of Sociology
1:55	Development and Distress in Mindanao: A Political Economy Overview	Eduardo C. Tadem, Ph.D. Convenor, UP CIDS – Program on Alternative Development
2:15	OPEN FORUM (Q & A) RECOGNITION OF SPEAKERS	
2:45	COFFEE BREAK	
<b>PANEL 2: POLITICAL ISSUES IN MINDANAO</b> Moderator: Rowena Laguilles-Timog, UP College of Social Work and Community Development		
3:15	Experiences of EJK, Marawi Siege, and Martial Law in Mindanao	Asst. Prof. Gil Espenido UP - College of Social Work and Community Development & Community Partners
3:35	The Struggle for Land of our Ancestors	Merlina Dumotan Baclig Farmerworkers' Association (BACFA) & Amelita Aslag Panalsalan Dagumbaan Tribal Association (PADATA)
3:55	The Lumad School as a Struggle for Land, Life, and Liberation	Jose Monfred C. Sy (UP CIDS – Program on Alternative Development) & Save Our Schools Network
4:15	OPEN FORUM (Q & A) RECOGNITION OF SPEAKERS	
4:45	Invitation to the Second Forum on Mindanao (13 March 2020)	
5:00	End of Program, Photo Opportunity	

# PROGRAM

## 13 MARCH 2020

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)
12:00 NOON	REGISTRATION	
1:00	Welcome Remarks & Forum Overview	Teresa S. Encarnacion Tadem, Ph.D. <i>Executive Director, UP CIDS</i>
<b>PANEL 1: POLITICAL AND HISTORICAL ISSUES IN MINDANAO</b> Moderator: Aaron Abel Mallari, <i>UP CIDS-Decolonial Studies Program</i>		
1:15	From ARMM to BARMM: Transition Plan and Implication	Julkipli M. Wadi Professor, UP Institute of Islamic Studies
1:35	Decolonising polity based on Muslim thoughts: Reflections on BARMM	Nassef Manabilang Adiong, Ph.D. Project Leader, UP CIDS Decolonial Studies Program
1:55	National Workshop and Conference on Philippine Muslim History (PMH)	Darwin J. Absari Assistant Professor, UP Institute of Islamic Studies
2:15	OPEN FORUM (Q & A) RECOGNITION OF SPEAKERS	
2:45	COFFEE BREAK	
<b>PANEL 2: EDUCATION</b> Moderator: Darwin J. Absara, <i>UP Institute of Islamic Studies</i>		
3:15	Sustainability Concerns of the Madrasah Education Program: Basis for Philippine Islamic and Madrasah Education Policy Review	Arlyne C. Marasigan, Ph.D. Senior Researcher, UP CIDS Islamic Studies Program (ISP)
3:35	Proposed policy review on BARMM madaris	Yassen Ala Co-founder, Youth Peace Hub and Philippine Collaboration for Inclusive Economies (PHILCOINE)
3:55	Alternative Delivery Modes of Education in the BARMM	Marie Therese Bustos, Ph.D. Convenor, UP CIDS – Assessment, Curriculum, and Technology Research Program
4:15	OPEN FORUM (Q & A) RECOGNITION OF SPEAKERS	
5:00	End of Program, Photo Opportunity	

# ABSTRACTS - 20 FEBRUARY 2020

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## PANEL 1: DEVELOPMENT

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### **Going Against the Grain: The Unifrutti Transformational Business Partnership Model**

**Annette Pelkmans-Balaoing, Ph.D.**, *Co-Convenor, UP CIDS-Escaping the Middle-Income Trap Chains for Change Program*

**& Victor Adrian Pabilona**, *Head of the Corporate Social Responsibility of Unifrutti Tropical Philippines, Inc. (Unifrutti)*

The paper is a result of an action research project that documented, analysed and supported inclusive business models in agricultural value chains in the Philippines by tracing the roots and evolution of the vision and practices of lead firms in the value chain in order to identify the main driving forces of inclusive business models in various product and geographical contexts. Years of learning and experimentation results in a model where inclusion and efficiency go hand in hand. Research was undertaken by a multi-disciplinary team of academic researchers in full collaboration with the practitioners from the companies being studied.

### **Ancestral Domain and Resource Use Policies**

**Francisco Lara Jr., Ph.D.**, *Peace and Conflict Adviser at International Alert; UP Diliman Department of Sociology; Project Leader, UP CIDS-Political Economy Program*

Property rights in relation to ancestral domain areas have been reinforced in recent years by legislation that enabled indigenous peoples to lay claim over large tracts of land and to negotiate the terms for the use of such land by various parties, including local states, settler groups, investors, and businesses. Yet despite the early gains in terms of new investments and royalty payments for the use of their lands, poverty and conflict has continued to rise in the same areas where IP groups were placed in the driver's seat in managing these areas. Why?

### **Development and Distress in Mindanao: A Political Economy Overview**

**Eduardo C. Tadem, PhD**, *Convenor, UP CIDS – Program on Alternative Development*

Despite the prevailing notion that economic growth and development have bypassed Mindanao-Sulu, the area has actually been a major performer and a primary contributor to the country's productive capacities resulting in high growth rates. The wealth and incomes created by the ceaseless exploitation of the south's resources, however, have not benefited a great majority of its people while enormous profits are amassed by local and foreign businesses. Inequalities also exist between Mindanao's wealthier regions and the less productive ones. Internal colonialism is also a major factor, i.e., the transfer of wealth from the southern regions to the nucleus of economic and political power in the north.

## PANEL 2: POLITICAL ISSUES IN MINDANAO

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### **Experiences of EJK, Marawi Siege, and Martial Law in Mindanao**

**Asst. Prof. Gil Espenido**, *UP - College of Social Work and Community Development & Community Partners*

The UP College of Social Work and Community Development conducted a research project to: a) determine current programmatic sectoral and multi-sectoral responses to human rights issues and concerns that confront rural and urban communities; b) establish a network of educators, researchers, and activists towards innovative, gender responsive, humane and community-centered responses to substance abuse; and c) provide support and protection for human rights defenders, especially women.

### **The Struggle for Land of our Ancestors**

**Merlina Dumotan**, *Baclig Farmerworkers' Association (BACFA)*  
**& Amelita Aslag**, *Panalsalan Dagumbaan Tribal Association*

The case of farmers belonging to the Talaandig and Higaonon indigenous tribes of Maramag, Bukidnon tells a story of how rural women defied the boundaries of their domestic sphere in defense of their ancestral domain, and to fight for social justice. The height of their struggle was the landmark occupation of these two (2) former cattle ranches, with women taking the lead and installing a gender-sensitive farming system in their localities.

### **The Lumad School as a Struggle for Land, Life, and Liberation**

**Jose Monfred Sy**, *UP CIDS – Program on Alternative Development & Save Our Schools Network*

The alternative tribal schools for the Lumad peoples of Mindanao exemplify how IPs can pave their way to their own definition of development that counters that of the state and the private sector. Responding to the shortfall of state services, the Lumad, with the support of academic, religious, and civil society organizations, established schools that allow students to recognize their potential as shapers of their own lives and future.

## PANEL 1: POLITICAL & HISTORICAL ISSUES IN MINDANAO

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### **From ARMM to BARMM: Transition Plan and Implication**

**Julkipli M. Wadi**, *Professor, UP Institute of Islamic Studies*

The research aims to look into the issues in the transition from the erstwhile Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region on Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in the light of previous peace agreements. Major issues include decommissioning, normalization, transitional justice; MILF's shift from revolutionary to parliamentary politics; BTA-to-BARMM governance, administration, and fiscal autonomy; increased politico-administrative autonomy granted to the BARMM amid decommissioning and reduced security power of MILF; dynamics of National Govt-BARMM relation; continuing strand of Moro struggle; increasing trend of radicalism in Moro areas, interest groups, dynamics of ethnicity, political dynasty, and party politics.

### **Decolonising polity based on Muslim thoughts: Reflections on BARMM**

**Nassef Manabilang Adiong, Ph.D.**, *Project Leader, UP CIDS Decolonial Studies Program*

Muslim views on the polity represent the paradigmatic understandings of how Muslims relate citizenry, authority, territoriality, and sovereignty to the overarching influence of the Western nation-state system. For citizenship, Western orientalist regarded *ummah* as a synonym for tribe, while Arab linguists insisted on a religious connotation. Authority, on the other hand, while ultimately enshrined in the personhood of the Prophet, leadership was later bestowed on the subsequent followers, and sometimes the *ummah* may possess leadership status through a social contract between the ruler and the ruled. Territoriality provides the space and domain for the manifestation of operationalized authority. Sovereignty (*hakimiyyah*) concepts have evolved from a medieval understanding as the promotion of public welfare envisaged in Shari'ah to the 20<sup>th</sup> century notion as "the will of God" and the Islamic modernist view of simply "to govern."

### **National Workshop and Conference on Philippine Muslim History (PMH)**

**Darwin J. Absari**, *Assistant Professor, UP Institute of Islamic Studies*

As a continuation of Round Table Discussions that UP CIDS and UP IIS conducted in November 2019, the proposed National Workshop and Conference on Philippine Muslim History (PMH) aims to know the status and develop the teaching of PMH, and establish networks and coordination in History teaching among colleges and universities in the country through sharing and distribution of resource materials. These are to support the implementation of R.A. 10908 Mandating the Integration of Filipino-Muslim and Indigenous Peoples History, Culture and Identity in the Study of Philippine History in both Basic and Higher Education and the President's call to correct historical injustices in Muslim Mindanao.

## PANEL 2: EDUCATION

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### **Sustainability Concerns of the Madrasah Education Program:**

#### **Basis for Philippine Islamic and Madrasah Education Policy Review**

**Arlyne C. Marasigan, Ph.D.**, *Senior Researcher, UP CIDS Islamic Studies Program (ISP)*

Recent education reforms have placed greater emphasis on both promoting Education for All (EFA) on achieving inclusive and quality education. International organizations have aided countries in fostering quality education under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. The challenge, however, is how education can be made more inclusive to cater to the needs of minority groups. The Philippine government and non-governmental organizations work together to achieve quality education for all Muslim learners by mainstreaming and institutionalizing madrasah education. This discussion paper focuses on the sustainability concerns of the Philippine Madrasah Education Program (MEP) whose implementation and sustainability remain ambiguous for many stakeholders, especially students and school teachers who are directly deployed in diverse difficult contexts.

### **Proposed policy review on BARMM madaris education**

**Yassen Ala**, *Co-founder, Youth Peace Hub and Philippine Collaboration for Inclusive Economies (PHILCOINE)*

The law establishing the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) mandated the establishment, maintenance and supervision of a Madaris Educational System and Islamic and Arabic Studies in the region, in coordination with the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and the Technical Education and Skills and Development Authority. A group of Moro researchers, commissioned by Pathways, will review the K-3 madrasah education to look into (1) policy gaps and best practices, (2) absence of policy that causes issues and challenges, and (3) policy recommendations. Pathways supports the BARMM Bureau of Madaris Education to undertake a policy review of Madaris Education implementation in support of three priorities: 1. policy recommendations on Madaris Education that will inform the Bangsamoro Education Code; 2. Design of the lighthouse Madaris; and 3. Madrasah Education Strategy Paper.

### **Alternative Delivery Modes of Education in the BARMM**

**Marie Therese Bustos, Ph.D.**, *Convenor, UP CIDS – Assessment, Curriculum, and Technology Research Program*

Geographic isolation and displacements due to conflicts have made education provision in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) a challenge. Alternative delivery mode (ADM) learning centers were established as a possible solution to the problem of educational access in BARMM. ADMs are instructional modalities that follow the K to 12 curriculum but deliver instruction in a more flexible manner, often not following the regular classroom set up. From 2012 to 2019, ACTRP worked on two projects in BARMM namely, the Longitudinal Study of Learning Achievement of Students in ARMM which tracked learners from Kinder to Grade 2 in DepEd schools and BRAC ADM learning centers, and the ADM Project end Evaluation Research.