



05 March 2025

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 00319 s. 2025

THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (PIDS) UPDATES
NEWSLETTER, ISSUE NO. 147 (February 2025)

To : Assistant Regional Director
Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) Updates Newsletter, Issue No. 147 (February 2025), for information.
2. Widest dissemination of this information is encouraged.

GILBERT T. BADSAD
Regional Director

Encls: As stated
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

NEWSLETTER
PIDS



Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
REHIYON V (BIKOL)
TANGGAPANG PANSANGAY NG MGA PAARALAN NG CATANDUANES

March 12, 2025

TO : OIC - Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

For information.

CECILE C. FERRO, CESO VI
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Officer-in-Charge
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION V - BICOL



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PPRD/apr
03/05/2025

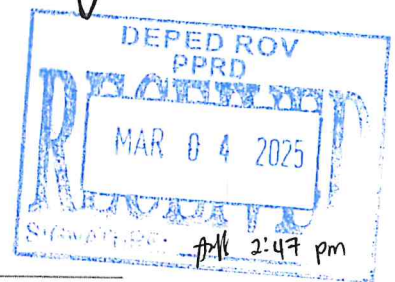
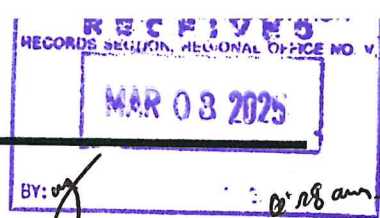


Address: Regional Center Site, Rawis, Legazpi City, 4500
Telephone Nos.: 0969 516 9555
Email Address: region5@deped.gov.ph
Website: <https://region5.deped.gov.ph/>



DEPED V BICOL REGION

From: PIDS Updates <updates@pids.maxxmailer.com>
Sent: Friday, 28 February 2025 8:35 pm
To: DEPED V BICOL REGION
Subject: PIDS Updates Newsletter, Issue No. 147 (February 2025)



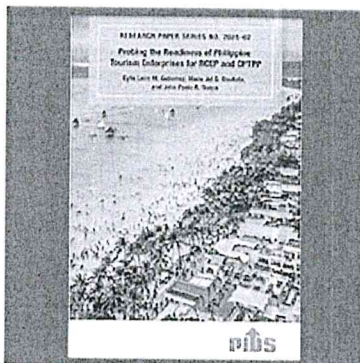
UPDATES

Because it matters to stay informed

FRIDAY / 28 FEBRUARY 2025

PUBLICATIONS

RESEARCH PAPER SERIES



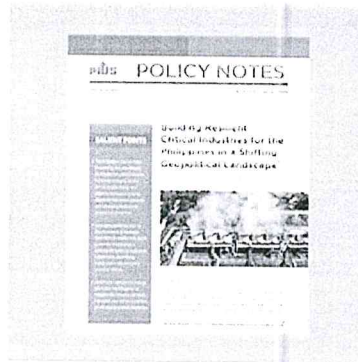
RPS 2025-02: Probing the Readiness of Philippine Tourism Enterprises for RCEP and CPTPP

by *Eylla Laira M. Gutierrez, Marie Jel D. Bautista, and John Paolo R. Rivera*

Amid various trade agreements that define trade rules and commitments for economies globally, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) have emerged as the largest and most forward-looking agreements. The combined impact of these agreements is expected to promote deeper integration of member economies, resulting in sustained economic growth. However, these agreements also present threats, such as increased inequality and stiffer competition for local industries. Given these opportunities and threats to member economies, it is crucial to examine the readiness of enterprises for liberalization, especially in less developed economies like the Philippines. This study focuses on the Philippine tourism industry, given its economic significance. It underscores the continuously expanding economic role of tourism, identifies opportunities and threats, and assesses the readiness of tourism enterprises for trade liberalization. To address the research question of how tourism enterprises can prepare for the impacts of trade liberalization brought about by RCEP and CPTPP, a qualitative triangulation approach involving document reviews, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions was employed. The findings indicate that both trade agreements offer limited opportunities for tourism enterprises to participate in liberalization, as they are constrained by issues of mutual recognition and standardization of skills. These findings aim to evaluate the current status of tourism within the context of ongoing developments in the international economic environment. [Click here to download the research](#)

paper.

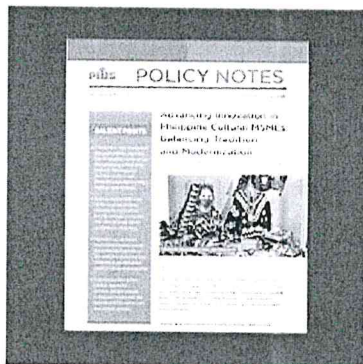
POLICY NOTES



PN 2025-04: Building Resilient Critical Industries for the Philippines in a Shifting Geopolitical Landscape

by *Jean Clarisse T. Carlos and Deryk Matthew N. Baladjay*

Amid geopolitical uncertainties, it is imperative for the Philippines to reassess its definition of critical industries to ensure economic resilience and national security. This *Policy Note* observes that the current definition of critical industries, primarily outlined in the Public Service Act of 2022, is limited to public utilities. The authors recommend expanding this definition to include emerging sectors such as renewable energy and digital technologies. By doing so, the Philippines can better address vulnerabilities and strengthen its industries. Additionally, the authors suggest leveraging platforms like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation to foster multilateral collaboration, diversify supply chains, and enhance economic stability. Finally, they emphasize the importance of adopting a multihorizon strategy to mitigate risks, enhance domestic capacities, and secure sustainable growth. [Click here to download the policy note.](#)

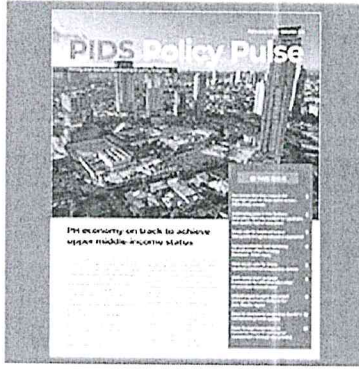


PN 2025-05: Advancing Innovation in Philippine Cultural MSMEs: Balancing Tradition and Modernization

by *June Anne J. Casimiro, Karenina B. Romualdo, and Via Shane R. Santiago*

Cultural micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) play a dual role: safeguarding cultural heritage and contributing to the creative economy. Their ability to blend tradition with innovation showcases their adaptability to changing market demands. However, these enterprises face significant challenges, including limited access to technology, financial constraints, competition from mass-produced imports, and workforce sustainability. This *Policy Note* draws insights from a case study of cultural MSMEs in Northern and Central Luzon, highlighting how cultural preservation, economic survival, and community empowerment drive their innovation efforts. These motivations position cultural MSMEs as potential global leaders in cultural entrepreneurship. To ensure sustainable growth, the *Note* recommends a holistic approach that supports both heritage preservation and the expansion of MSMEs' market reach and economic potential. [Click here to download the policy note.](#)

POLICY PULSE



PPP Vol. 2 No. 1: PH Economy on Track to Achieve Upper Middle-income Status

by *PIDS Research Information Staff*

The first issue of *PIDS Policy Pulse* for 2025 highlights promising trends and opportunities for the Philippines to sustain its growth and attain key targets toward becoming an upper-middle income economy. It calls on addressing gaps in equitable access to education and emphasizes improving tertiary education subsidy programs and services for public and private institutions. This issue also underscores the need for universal access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities to prevent waterborne diseases like diarrhea, particularly in underserved communities. It also proposes a systematic approach to monitoring health and nutrition interventions for more transparent resource allocation. Another article examines how the country's aging population and shrinking households affect housing demand, urging investments in affordable housing projects and sustainable infrastructure. To navigate geoeconomic shifts, the issue also underscored the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' crucial role in maintaining unity and neutrality while adapting to changes in foreign trade policies. It advocates regional collective action to address disparities amid climate change, economic inequality, and rapid technological transformation. Finally, it encourages researchers to maximize dissemination efforts through impactful storytelling and effective use of technology. [Click here to download the policy pulse.](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS



The *Philippine Journal of Development* is a professional journal published by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. It accepts papers that examine key issues in development and have strong relevance to policy development. As a multidisciplinary social science journal, it accepts papers in the fields of economics, political science, public administration, sociology, and other related disciplines. It considers papers that have strong policy implications on national or international concerns, particularly development issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the guidelines in the preparation of articles. Submissions and inquiries may be sent to PJD@pids.gov.ph.

EVENTS

March 10, 2025, 1:00PM-3:00PM

Sustaining Heritage, Innovating Communities: The Future of Philippine Cultural MSMEs and Agroecotourism

Register here: <https://bit.ly/pidsevent031025>

(Watch the livestream on the [PIDS](#) and [SERP-P Facebook pages](#))

March 20, 2025, 9:00AM-12:00PM

"PIDS HEFP: Redefining Innovative and Data-driven Research in the Advancement of Universal Health Care": The Program on Health Economics and Finance (HEFP) Official Launch

Onsite participation is by invitation only.

(Watch the livestream on the [PIDS](#) and [SERP-P Facebook pages](#))

March 27, 2025, 9:00AM-11:30AM

Empowering Women and Closing the Gender Gap in the Philippines

Register here: <https://bit.ly/pidsevent032725>

(Watch the livestream on the [PIDS](#) and [SERP-P Facebook pages](#))

PRESS RELEASES



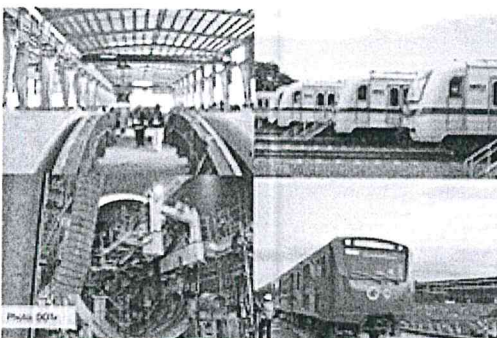
PIDS harmonizes PH census data to address decades of inconsistencies

The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) has undertaken a key initiative to harmonize five decades of Philippine Census of Population and Housing (CPH) data, addressing long-standing inconsistencies that hinder effective policy analysis. Aligned with its 2020–2025 research agenda, PIDS underscores the need for accurate and consistent statistical estimates to support evidence-based policymaking. The state think tank calls for a more responsive Philippine statistical system to meet the increasing demand for reliable data-driven decisions. [READ MORE](#)



External pressure remains a challenge for PH economic growth

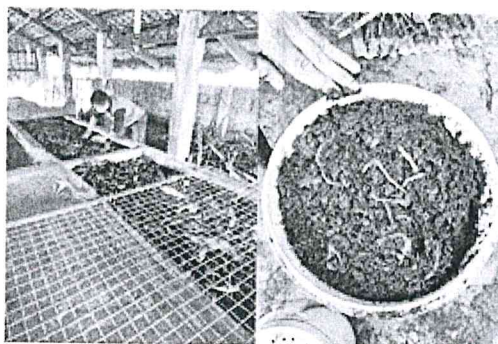
The Philippine economy continues to face domestic challenges and global uncertainties that require careful fiscal management and policy adjustments. Factors like geopolitical tensions, disrupted supply chains, and volatile global financial conditions make economic planning more complex. These pressing economic issues were the focus of a recent webinar by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS). Experts examined how external shocks influence domestic economic stability and explored potential policy solutions. [READ MORE](#)



PH lags behind ASEAN neighbors in transport infrastructure

A study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) reports that the Philippines continues to fall behind its Southeast Asian neighbors in transport infrastructure development, raising serious concerns about its capacity to sustain economic growth and enhance regional competitiveness. Authored by PIDS Senior Research Fellow Dr. Kris Francisco, the study titled, "[Transport Infrastructure in the Philippines: From Plans to Actual Allocation](#)", reveals significant gaps in the country's

transport systems, particularly in railways, ports, and airport efficiency, compared to the well-developed networks of other nations in the region. [READ MORE](#)



[Organic alternatives viable amid rising chemical fertilizer costs in PH, but policy reform is crucial](#)

Sustainability concerns and the rising cost of chemical fertilizers in the Philippines are sparking renewed interest in organic farming methods with farmers and experts seeking viable alternatives. Organic-based fertilizers offer significant long-term benefits for soil health and crop productivity, but full or scaled replacement of chemical fertilizers is hindered by technical, cost and supply considerations. A recent study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), titled "[Prospects for Widespread Adoption of Organic-Based Fertilizers in the Philippines: A Rapid Appraisal](#)" explores these challenges surrounding fertilizer use and its impact on Philippine agriculture. [READ MORE](#)



[PH media landscape is transforming amid digital technology advancements](#)

A recent study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) highlights the significant shift from traditional to digital media, driven by technological advancements and changing consumer preferences. This digital shift is raising critical questions about the future of traditional media and its ability to remain relevant in an increasingly digital world. Titled "[Analysis of the Competition Landscape of Philippine Mass Media](#)", the study was authored by PIDS Senior Research Fellow Ramonette B. Serafica and Research Specialist Queen Cel A. Oren. It examines how the Philippine media landscape is transforming profoundly as digital platforms overtake traditional media in audience engagement and revenue generation. [READ MORE](#)

INFOGRAPHICS

INSTAQUOTES

Let us take a look at some of the most thought-provoking ideas shared by our speakers and panelists during the webinar on "Macroeconomic Prospects of the Philippines in 2025" on February 13 and symposium on "Shaping APEC's Blue Economy Agenda: Philippine Leadership and Visayas-Centric Innovations" on February 19.


PUBLIC WEBINAR
MACROECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF THE PHILIPPINES IN 2025
 FEBRUARY 13, 2025
 VIA ZOOM

  
PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM
SHAPING APEC'S BLUE ECONOMY AGENDA: PHILIPPINE LEADERSHIP AND VISAYAS-CENTRIC INNOVATIONS
 FEBRUARY 19, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS, TALAMBAN CAMPUS
 AND VIA ZOOM









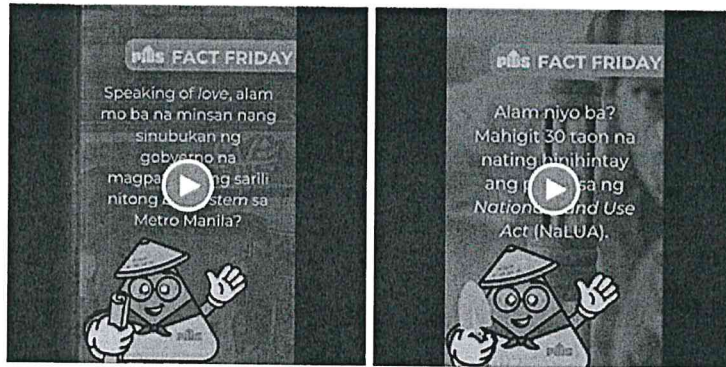







FACT FRIDAY

Every Friday, PIDS releases nuggets of research results culled from different PIDS studies. Here are the latest #PIDSFactFriday issues.



BUZZWORD BOARD

Get to know key socioeconomic terms and concepts in our social media series, #PIDSBuzzwordBoard.



refers to a market where there is a single dominant buyer of a good or service. A monopsonist can drive down prices by reducing its purchases.

SOURCE: Cambridge University Press

