

SUSTAINABLE SHARED GROWTH SEMINAR #30 REPORT

2022
JAN

Linking Fiscal Decentralization with Vertical and Horizontal Gaps



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NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY

The term "gap" is used loosely in this report. Strictly speaking "vertical gap" is different from "vertical imbalance". The former is the difference between local expenditure and local revenues, while the latter is the difference between local expenditure and the sum of the local revenues and transfers from national government. There is no such distinction for the horizontal gap and imbalance.

See IMF eLibrary: Designing Sound Fiscal Relations Across Government Levels in Decentralized Countries



Sustainable Shared Growth Seminar #30

linking fiscal decentralization with vertical and horizontal gaps

Sept 28, 2021 (Tues) 9AM -12NN (via Zoom)



PRESENTATION 1

Atty. Damcelle T. Cortes
College of Public Affairs and Development

PRESENTATION 2

Dr. Ferdinand C. Maquito
College of Public Affairs and Development
Sekiguchi Global Research Association

DISCUSSANTS

Hon. Roberto K. Canuto
Board Member, Province of Benguet

Atty. Dulce H. Rebanal
Provincial Administrator, Province of Laguna

Ms. Minerva L. Boongaling
Municipal Treasurer, Municipality of Pagsanjan

CHAIR

Mr. Joffre Balce
Secretary, Association for Good Government

Organized by the College of Public Affairs and Development (University of the Philippines Los Baños) and Sekiguchi Global Research Association (Atsumi International Foundation)



Scan or Link to register



program and zoom link available on registration

<https://forms.gle/oZ9DLGjPrXqBhasy6>

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Shared Growth Seminars are also known as the KKK seminars. KKK stands for Kahusayan (Efficiency), Katarungan (Equity), and Kalikasan (Environment), which represents the economic goals of sustainable shared growth. It is also the name of the revolutionary organization that fought for the independence of the Philippines from Spain. Unlike in Western or Asian (Japanese) context, for the Philippines, therefore, KKK stands for what is noble in her traditions, and is very much against repression. We feel that the Philippines is in dire need of sustainable shared growth, and requires nothing short of a revolution, albeit peaceful, in our way of thinking and acting on these issues.

This seminar series is organized by the Sekiguchi Global Research Association of the Atsumi International Foundation, based in Sekiguchi, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan. The Nihongo equivalent for KKK are kouritsu (efficiency), kouhei (equity), and kankyō (environment), for which the Japanese characters are 効率, 公平, 環境, respectively.

Seminar #29 was co-organized with the College of Public Affairs and Development of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, and was held on July 27, 2021, and was held fully online due to the on-going pandemic. The theme of this seminar was "In Search of Community Currencies".

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Linking Fiscal Decentralization with Vertical and Horizontal Gaps

KKK SEMINAR #30

OPENING REMARKS: JUNKO IMANISHI

CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE, SGRA

Ohayo gozaimasu good morning
Welcome to the 30th Sustainable Shared Growth Seminar, which is the 3rd one for this fiscal year.

The topic for this seminar is about decentralization and is a basic principle of sustainable shared growth. Like the Philippines, Japan is also an archipelago and originally consisted of many small "kingdoms". We could say that unification (or centralization) was forced to both our countries by western colonizers. In Japan, however, centralization was to prevent colonization while in the Philippines it was to promote colonization.

Decentralization, therefore, I think is simply going back to our roots which is based on our diversity, although it should be harmonious. More than ever, such a decentralization is important to reduce vulnerability and improve resiliency against a natural disaster such as the current pandemic

"For in this process, we also learn. This I believe is in keeping with our foundation's vision of achieving harmony amidst diversity."



JUNKO IMANISHI

Chief Representative, Sekiguchi Global
Research Association (SGRA)
Managing Director
Atsumi International Foundation
"harmony amidst diversity"

OPENING REMARKS: JUNKO IMANISHI

CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE, SGRA

I look forward to the presentations, and thank Professor Damcelle Cortes for her collaboration with Dr Max Maquito in today's topic: "Linking Fiscal Decentralization with Vertical and Horizontal Gaps". I would like to welcome our discussants His Honor Roberto Canuto, Atty. Dulce Rebanal, and Ms. Minerva Boongaling.

My thanks to Dr Jane Toribio of the Benguet team which has always been supportive of the Sekiguchi Global Research Association in the Philippines and abroad, and to the College of Public Affairs and Development of the University of the Philippines Los Baños for their continued support of this seminar series.

Let us all be safe!

Sekiguchi, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo

*heavy snow this
winter!*



PROGRAM

OPENING REMARKS

JUNKO IMANISHI

Chief Representative, Sekiguchi Global Research Association
Atsumi International Foundation

SEMINAR MANAGERS

CHAIR | JOFFRE BALCE

Secretary Association for Good Government

CO-CHAIR | DR. MAX MAQUITO

College of Public Affairs and Development (CPAf),
University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)
Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA), Atsumi
International Foundation (AISF)

PROGRAM

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION #1 | FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION AND THE HORIZONTAL GAP

Atty. Damcelle T. Cortes (CPAf/UPLB)

PRESENTATION #2 | FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION AND THE VERTICAL GAP

Dr. Max Maquito (CPAf/UPLB, SGRA/AISF)

DISCUSSANTS |

- Hon. Roberto K. Canuto, Board Member, Benguet (thru the kindness of Dr. Jane Toribio of DAR)
- Atty. Dulce H. Rebanal, Provincial Administrator, Laguna (thru the kindness of Atty. Damcelle Cortes)
- Ms. Minnie Boongaling, Treasurer, Municipality of Pagsanjan, Laguna

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in the presentations are solely those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the views or opinions of the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

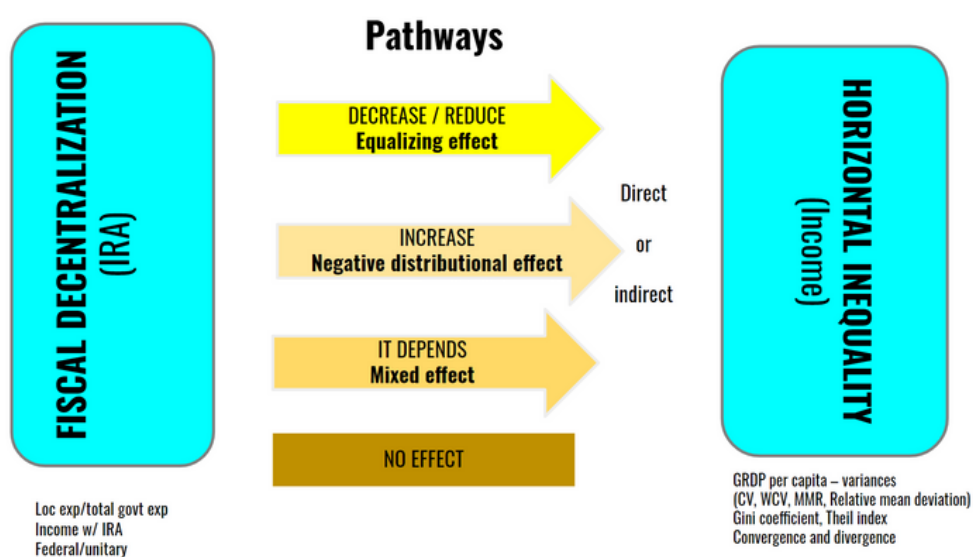
Presentation #1

PRESENTATION #1 | FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION AND THE HORIZONTAL GAP

Atty. Damcelle T. Cortes

SOME OBSERVATIONS

- Studies based on more recent data (2000 up) show fiscal decentralization to have equalizing effect (Yeeles, 2015 and Lessman, 2012), though moderately and with qualifications.
- This moderate and qualified (subject to factors like government size and level of development) effect can be seen in the relatively stable regional inequality in the Philippines observed by Balisacan and Hill (2006) and Yeeles (2015).
- Most studies of horizontal imbalance were at the regional level due to data availability. More granular inequality studies examining lower level LGUs (cities and municipalities like is Yeeles', and barangays) may provide a clearer picture.
- This is especially relevant given findings that LGUs are "more differentiated within" than across (Yeeles, 2015) and of the growing rural-urban divide.
- Fiscal decentralization's pathways to promoting equity is much more complex. FD's effects are not always direct and are mediated by other equally complex factors.



Source: From the Presentation of Atty. Damcelle Cortes

PRESENTATION #1 | FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION AND THE HORIZONTAL GAP

Atty. Damcelle T. Cortes (CPAf/UPLB)

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS.

Decentralization's mixed results and noted uncertainties in the effects of inter-governmental monetary transfers in various contexts prompted us to investigate the Philippines' experience. The Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA), the country's primary vehicle for fiscal decentralization since 1991, presents both opportunities and challenges for promoting sustainable shared growth. Through automatic transfers, the IRA seeks to address the vertical gap in financial resources that local government units (LGUs) need and actually have to provide devolved welfare services. Since the IRA is apportioned across and within all sub-national levels, it is also expected to enhance equity among LGUs and close the horizontal gap by enabling poorer localities to be at par with more developed counterparts. But the IRA's welfare-enhancing and equalization functions have been subject of debate as LGUs continue to be under-resourced and income disparities across regions persist.

The seminar presented initial findings of an integrative literature review on the IRA's promise of addressing vertical and horizontal gaps in Philippine local governance. Examining the effects of IRA is timely and significant as the Supreme Court decision in the Mandanas case begins implementation in 2022. By including customs collections in the national taxes on which the IRA is based, the ruling substantially increases the amounts distributed to LGUs.

NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY

The term "gap" is used loosely in this report. Strictly speaking "vertical gap" is different from "vertical imbalance". The former is the difference between local expenditure and local revenues, while the latter is the difference between local expenditure and the sum of the local revenues and transfers from national government. There is no such distinction for the horizontal gap and imbalance.

See IMF eLibrary: Designing Sound Fiscal Relations Across Government Levels in Decentralized Countries

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METHODOLOGY

We employed a Systematic Literature Review, with the following basic steps

01

Problem ID

Does fiscal decentralization contribute to shared growth?

03

Data Evaluation

③ Data Evaluation

Rounds	Articles	
	Vertical	Horizontal
1 Raw search	2,649	
2 Title sifting	490	
3 Abstract Sifting	82	
4 Full content	38	
5 Final*	19	19

* Plus chain literature
Mendeley used for data management

02

Literature Search

14 online databases

② Literature Search

- 14 online databases
- Search protocol
 - Advanced search of keywords: Philippine fiscal decentralization
 - Refined search if > 300: IRA
 - Studies on or including Philippines
 - 1991 onwards
 - Journal articles in English

04

Analysis

- Excel data comparison
- Text/Content analysis

Presentation #2

PRESENTATION #1 | FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION AND THE HORIZONTAL GAP

Atty. Damcelle T. Cortes (CPAf/UPLB)

Does fiscal decentralization have an effect on the vertical gap in the Philippines?

EFFICIENCY Vertical Gap

Difference between the cost of devolved services and the IRA share

Does fiscal decentralization have an effect on the horizontal gap in the Philippines?

EQUITY Horizontal Gap

Income inequality across LGUs



AUTHOR

Atty. Damcelle T. Cortes

- *Damcelle Torres-Cortes is a lawyer by profession and is currently Assistant Professor at the College of Public Affairs and Development, University of the Philippines Los Baños where she teaches graduate courses on development management and governance. She twice served as Assistant to the Chancellor of UPLB.*
- *Prior to joining the academe, Atty. Cortes managed justice reform programs at The Asia Foundation; helped draft the Juvenile Justice Law as legislative officer at the Philippine Senate; and hosted a weekly radio program on human rights aired nationwide. She was also engaged in intellectual property and litigation practice as junior associate at the Poblador Bautista and Reyes Law Office. While a law student, Atty. Cortes served as Commissioner of the Philippine Commission on Women.*
- *She provides technical assistance to various local agencies and international organizations and has published works in the areas of human rights, gender and development, as well as policy reform and advocacy.*
- *Education: AB Social Science, Ateneo de Manila University, cum laude (1999); Bachelor of Laws,*

Presentation #2

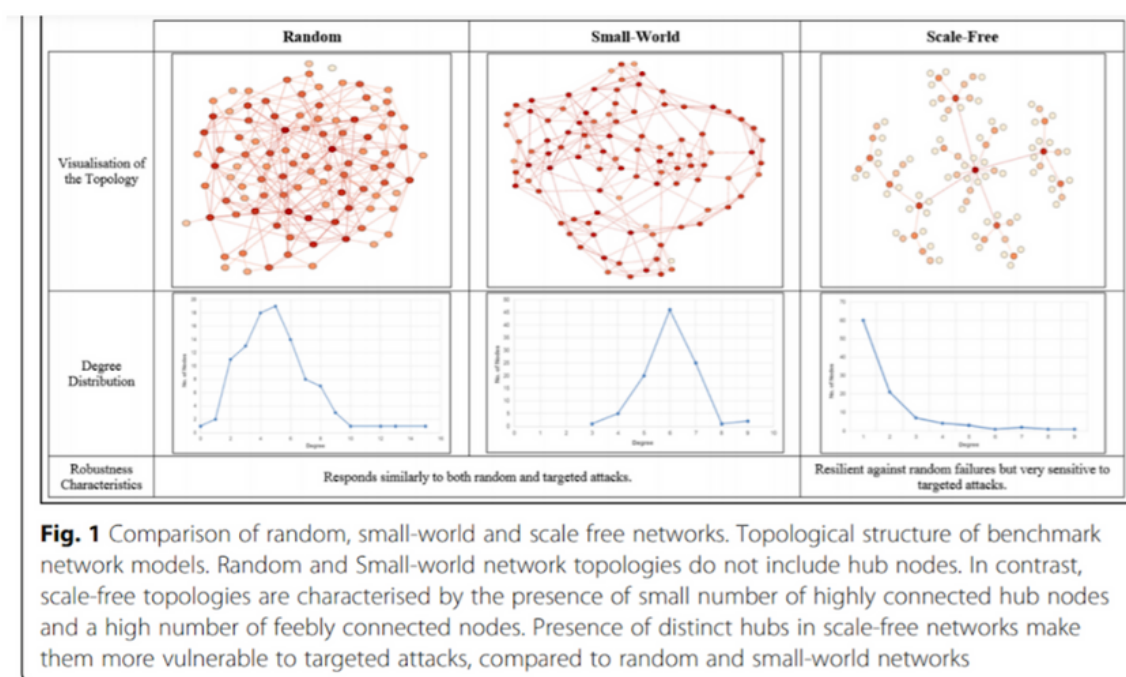
PRESENTATION #2 | FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION AND THE VERTICAL GAP

Dr. Max Maquito (CPAf/UPLB and SGRA/AISF)

SUMMARY.

Depending on methodological rigor, the surveyed literature could be ranked using different levels

- Level 1 Literature
 1. Highest level of rigor
 2. Found only one
 3. Provides a benchmark
 4. Provides some answer to our research question
- Level 2 Literature
 5. Uses sound quantitative approach
 6. Does not really establish causality
 7. Provides some answer to our research question
- Level 3 Literature
 8. All other literature that provides some answer to our research question



Source: Perera, Supun & Bell, Michael & Bliemer, Michiel. (2017)
This is work-in-progress and does not reflect the position of the institution with which the author is affiliated. Do not quote without permission.

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Presentation #2

PRESENTATION #2 | FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION AND THE VERTICAL GAP

Dr. Max Maquito (CPAf/UPLB and SGRA/AISF)

SYNTHESIS

- Generally, there is a tradeoff between efficiency and equity: shrinking the vertical gap leads to greater horizontal gap
- Recommended strategy: not to fall into a policy paralysis
- Earnestly pursue efficiency (shrinking the vertical gap)
- Need for a separate policy instrument for equity (shrinking the horizontal gap)
- Development Equalization Fund as a separate policy instrument
- Search for and facilitate 2 Birds 1 Stone (2BIS) interventions → simultaneously shrinking the vertical and horizontal gaps
- Equalization fund could also be efficiency-enhancing
- Promote innovation networks
- Some implications considering the Mandanas-Garcia Supreme Court ruling
- Provinces will be hard up, while the other LGU classes could get a respite
- Pandemic Implications
 1. Cities as engines of development, but also super spreaders
 2. Push decentralization for more resiliency against future pandemics



AUTHOR

Dr. Max Maquito

In his "previous life", the author was a mechanical engineer at a state-owned shipyard, after finishing his BS at the Engineering Department of the University of the Philippines, Diliman. A scholarship enabled him to shift specialization and earn his MS Industrial Economics from the Center of Research of Communication (now within the University of Asia and the Pacific). Right after which, he was able to get into the Japanese Ministry of Education scholarship to get into the PhD in Economics program of the University of Tokyo. A scholarship from the Atsumi International Foundation enabled him to finish his doctorate in Economics He was an Adjunct Professor in Temple University Japan campus, before coming back to the Philippines to join CPAf, where he is now an Assistant Professor. His long stay in Japan, and working with the Atsumi International Foundation have fueled his lifelong research and advocacy on sustainable shared growth. E-Mail: maquito.uplb@gmail.com

CHAIR'S NOTES

CHAIR

Joffre Balce

Secretary, Association for Good Government



- *JOFFRE BALCE is the Secretary of the Association for Good Government and concurrent Head of the Australia School of Social Science. He was a former PhD scholar of the University of New South Wales Faculty of Law, an MSc scholar of the Southeast Asia Science Foundation at the University of Asia and the Pacific and an AB from the Ateneo de Manila University. He has had a wide range of education and experience for over 40 years in the fields of agriculture, banking, regulation, economic development, strategic planning, cooperative enterprise & international finance in the sectors of academe, private business, government and civil society.*
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Association for Good Government

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▶ Welcome to the Association for Good Government 📄 📧 📞

We are an organisation that believes that the growing problems we are experiencing can be combated far more effectively by securing our natural rights than by authoritarian controls.

Though we may not immediately see it, the natural right we need most is the right to land. Without it, we cannot begin to exercise our right to work, relish the fruits of our labour, or achieve a dignified existence.

This is the teaching of Henry George, American economist and social philosopher whose ideas and principles the Association propagates through submissions, courses, seminars, articles and its bi-monthly magazine *Good Government*.

For inquiries, please Contact Us.

CHAIR'S NOTES

- Horizontal Gaps – Damcelle Cortes

Decentralization theory. $T = f(-Y)$; does not address the vicious cycle

Some LGUs prefer lower status to get higher IRA.

Poor LGUs push OFW for their remittances

Wealth & rents have to be kept within the LGU.

With income based taxation

Richer, more developed are encouraged to do even better.

Poorer, more encouraged to stay poor.

- Vertical Gaps – Max Maquito

Opportunity is in wealthier LGUs / Dependency effect

Comparative advantage

Income tax collected from source puts residences at a disadvantage

OFW incentive to concentrate on sales/consumption taxes.

Land value tax on the local levels

Income & consumption tax on the national level

IRA be based on residence of income tax payers, as well as consumption, if transactions become more electronic.

LGU Bonds or poorer LGUs to absorb the surplus of richer LGUs

- Roberto--Benguet

LGU fiscal-monetary coordination

- Minnie – Pagsanjan.

IRA is essential. Encourages consistency. CoViD hurt. Public markets had a sales boost. Local dependence on services.

- Dulce – Laguna

Local “sovereignty” over its resources & of its peoples.

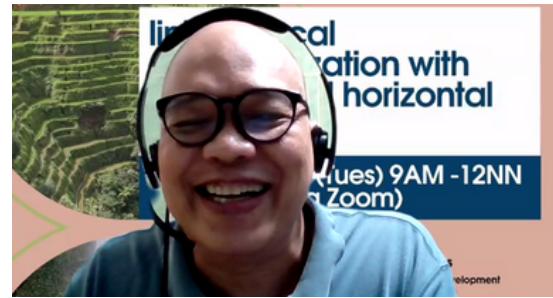
Board Member Roberto Canuto

The classification of LGUs is the problem in itself.

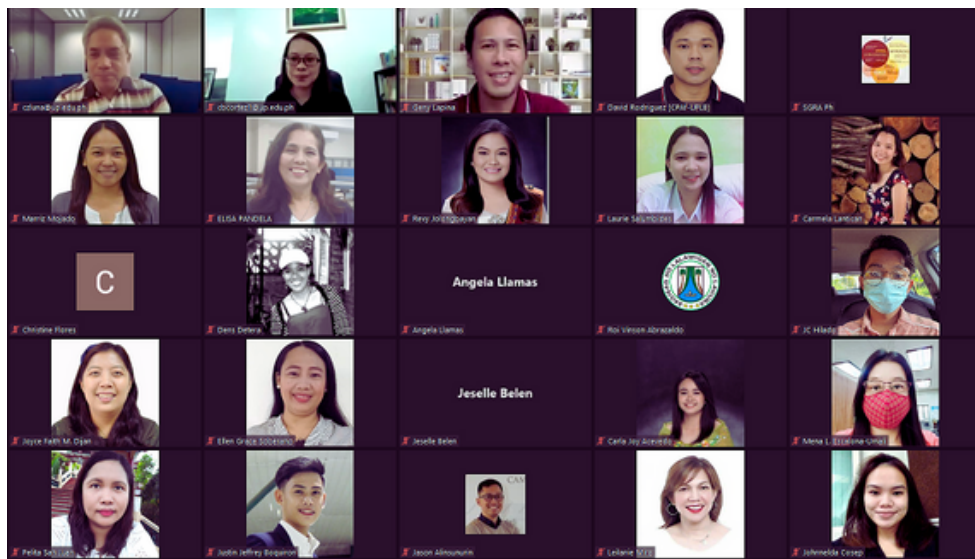
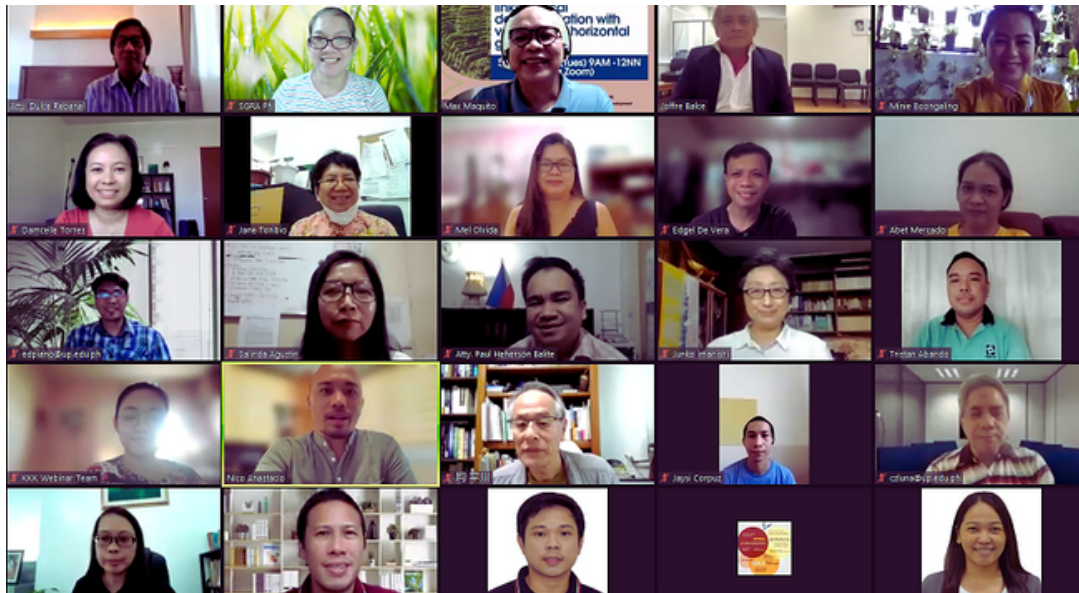
Re-classification a solution?



**ATTY. DAMCELLE
T. CORTES**
UPLB, CPAf



**DR. MAX
MAQUITO**
UPLB, AISF







thank you!

LINKING DECENTRALIZATION WITH THE HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL GAPS

DR MAX MAQUITO

POSTED: SEPT, 2021

Amusingly, the 30th Sustainable Shared Growth (KKK30) seminar, which was intended to be a validation of our desk research findings on fiscal decentralization from the point of view of those on the ground, was beginning to feel like a town hall meeting. This, I guess, should not come as a surprise given that the panel discussants and majority of the participants came from the academe and government, and a few from the civil society. Certainly, we are for a civil dialogue between these two important sectors of our society, and we look forward to having more of it in future seminars.

The topic for KKK30 was “Linking Fiscal Decentralization to Vertical and Horizontal Gaps.” It was held virtually on Sept. 28. My colleague at the UPLB College of Public Affairs and Development (CPAf), Atty. Damcette T. Cortes, presented the horizontal gap, and I delivered the presentation on the vertical gap.

not to fall into the policy paralysis of not aggressively closing the vertical gap for fear that it would widen the horizontal gap



DR MAX MAQUITO

Sustainable Shared Growth Seminar
Convenor

LINKING DECENTRALIZATION WITH THE HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL GAPS

DR MAX MAQUITO

POSTED: SEPT. 2021

Fiscal decentralization here refers mainly to the transfer of funds from the central government to the local government units (LGUs). Using a systematic literature review methodology, we attempted to ascertain what the literature was saying about the relationship of fiscal decentralization with the vertical gap (the imbalance between the costs of devolved services and the available financial resources) and the horizontal gap (the developmental disparities among different LGUs). The vertical and horizontal gaps refer to the two fundamental goals of “shared growth,” which are efficiency and equity, respectively.

We found that there is generally a tradeoff between the goals of closing the vertical gap and the horizontal gap. Our recommendation is not to fall into the policy paralysis of not aggressively closing the vertical gap for fear that it would widen the horizontal gap. Pursuit of efficiency is very much encouraged with the added recommendation of using a separate policy instrument that would specifically address inequity. An equalization grant is one such instrument. If properly designed, such a grant could also be efficiency-enhancing. Our review also identified other “two-birds-with-one-stone” policies like neighborhood effects (competition among LGUs) and innovation networks.

In the discussion following our presentations, three LGU representatives joined us. They were Roberto Canuto, board member of Benguet Province, Atty. Dulce Rebanal, provincial administrator of Laguna Province, and Minnie Boongaling, municipal treasurer of Pagsanjan. All three were requesting a stay on the full devolution of public services as well as the use of the additional funds for coping with the pandemic, following the implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia Supreme Court ruling next fiscal year.

LINKING DECENTRALIZATION WITH THE HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL GAPS

DR MAX MAQUITO

POSTED: SEPT. 2021

This ruling expands the basis of the computation of the fiscal transfers to LGUs from the national government but, at the same time, fully devolving the functions to the LGUs. I would say that this is a reasonable request given that the Philippines suffered a dip in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth twice that of the global average but was able to keep its COVID-related death rate to half of the global average.

There were other interesting points from the discussion and the ensuing Q&A Let me just share a couple.

One is on the role of good governance in LGUs, a core concern of CPAf. The views of the participants and the literature reviewed showed a mixed confidence on the importance of good governance. I cautioned, however, against underestimating governance.

Certainly, there are other factors that ultimately affect an LGU's performance. However, the literature is also rife with effective mechanisms of good governance such as exit or voting with feet (migrating out of a poorly performing LGU to a better performing LGU), voice (expressed in local elections or town hall meetings), neighborhood effects (policies of one LGU is affected by the policies of neighboring LGUs, promoting competition among LGUs), close to the ground (LGU policy makers listen carefully to their local constituents), watching the watchers (accountability of LGU authorities), and civil society (helping in the administration and operation of LGU programs, projects, and activities).

Moreover, a central observation of our study suggests the tendency to get mixed results seems to be more evident as researchers use less rigorous methods of assessment, where the highest level of rigor is obtained from methods that systematically establish causal relationships between the interventions and observed effects.

LINKING DECENTRALIZATION WITH THE HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL GAPS

DR MAX MAQUITO

POSTED: SEPT. 2021

Pressed for additional factors that could explain the emergence of a handful of successful cities, I offered my observation of the crucial role of local elites. Although this deserves a more systematic study, I have observed that LGUs that prosper have local elites who are earnestly contributing to the progressive transformation of their hometown. Unfortunately, in most cases, local elites appear to be the first to maintain the status quo.

Another interesting point from the Q&A was on the medical services provided by the LGUs. This is where we had most of our ‘town hall’ vibes when residents began sharing their experiences on this issue, which is certainly a very important one in these times. Another relevant point raised by a participant is that LGUs should also consider agriculture – a sector that should be very close to the hearts of the participating LGUs (Benguet and Laguna are agriculturally-inclined provinces) as well as to us in UPLB, to which the stewardship of this sector has been essentially entrusted.

The KKK30 seminar was organized by the Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA) of the Atsumi International Foundation and CPAf. In her opening remarks, SGRA Chief Representative Junko Imanishi noted that Japan and the Philippines are both archipelagoes that were forced to centralize given the colonial ambitions of Western powers in East Asia, albeit with different goals: to deflect colonization in the case of Japan, and to facilitate colonization in the case of the Philippines. Decentralization could be viewed as a journey back to our archipelagic roots.

SGRA and CPAf will have another virtual event in the first week of December on land value taxation and its sustainable shared growth implications. We hope to see you there.

Source: <https://cpaf.uplb.edu.ph/cpaf-updates/fiscal-decentralization-and-shared-growth/>

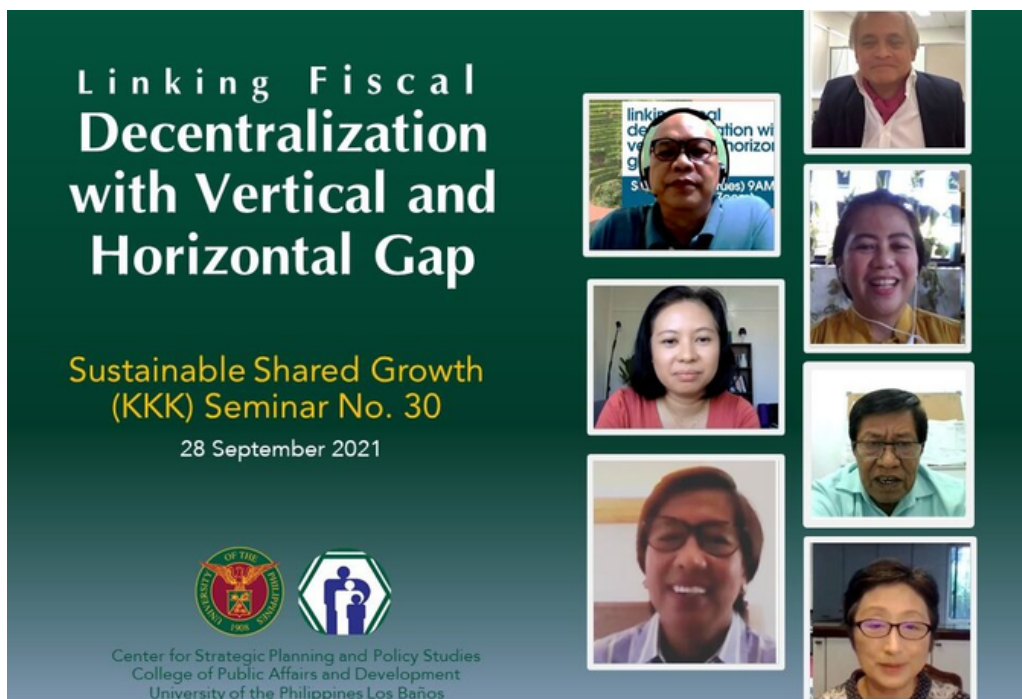
LINKING DECENTRALIZATION WITH THE HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL GAPS

DR MAX MAQUITO

POSTED: SEPT. 2021



University of the Philippines Los Baños
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT



Source: <https://cpaf.uplb.edu.ph/cpaf-updates/fiscal-decentralization-and-shared-growth/>

NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Sustainable Shared Growth seminars for this Japanese fiscal year 2021-22.

01. Seminar #31 (November 2021)

Sustainable Shared Growth (KKK) and Land Value Taxation (LVT)

02. Seminar #32 (February 2022)

Sustainable Shared Growth (KKK) and Rural Organizations

NEXT STEPS



About the Theme

BUILDING A FUTURE ASIA — Solving Problems, Together

The future of Asia holds great potential, and the world is paying attention to the development of the region. Over the past 30 years, Asia has achieved remarkable progress, with rapidly rising consumption levels and successful integration into global trade, capital, talent and innovation flows. In the decades to come, Asian economies will not only participate in but also determine the direction of these flows. From the Internet and technology to international trade, Asia has long become a main player in many fields. The key issue today is no longer how fast Asia is rising, but what forms of leadership it will generate. Although Asian countries contain diverse languages, races and religions and have different forms of government and economic systems, they share similar development histories and backgrounds.

Asia accounted for less than 1/3 of the world's total GDP in the year 2000 but is expected to exceed 50% of it by 2040. By then, Asia is also expected to account for 40% of total world consumption. Asia has not only achieved economic progress but human development through increased human longevity and literacy rates as well as the rapid spread of technology and the Internet. As a result of this, however, over-used resources and health insurance have become urgent social issues.

NEXT STEPS

The rise of Asia has not only lifted hundreds of millions of people out of extreme poverty, but has also widened the gap between the rich and the poor.

Urbanization is driving economic development and improving education and public health services, but poverty and other development challenges remain.

With rapid population growth many cities are unable to provide adequate housing, infrastructure and other related services. Asian countries and regions need to achieve more inclusive and sustainable economic growth in order to cope with the pressures of inequality and environmental issues. In addition to environmental and economic sustainability, Asian countries should also work together for Asia's future toward peace.

About the Asia Future Conference

The twenty-first century has seen the world thrust into a maelstrom of change and unpredictability. We remain hopeful in the face of rapid technological advancements, but many of us struggle to regain our bearings as longstanding social structures become upended. Internationalization and globalization have long been heralded as the keys for the future, yet a truly global path forward remains elusive, serving only to heighten the sense of uncertainty. As global citizens in this era of change, we are called anew to reexamine our world and our collective future and to seek new multidimensional and inclusive perspectives on myriad global issues.

The achievement of rapid economic development has also led to dramatic changes in Asia. With the onset of global environmental issues and an increasingly globalized social economy, problems that transcend national barriers are on the rise. Amidst rapid globalization there is a simultaneous process of localization, leading to problems such as nationalism taking root. The citizens and groups that make up society must think not only about the pursuit of individual wealth, but of the benefits for the rest of society. In order to solve the problems brought about by globalization, it is necessary to cross and cooperate across national and disciplinary borders, and to analyze issues from a multidimensional perspective.

NEXT STEPS

The Asia Future Conference was established with this reality in mind. International and interdisciplinary at its core, the Asia Future Conference encourages diverse approaches to global issues that are mindful of the advancement of science, technology and business and also take into consideration issues of the environment, politics, education, the arts, and culture. The Asia Future Conference is organized by the Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA) in partnership with likeminded institutions, and provides a venue for the exchange of knowledge, information, ideas, and culture not only for SGRA members, but also for former foreign students of Japan from educational institutions around the world, their own students and collaborators, and anyone interested in Japan.

SGRA began operating in Tokyo in July 2000 as a division of the Atsumi International Foundation, a charitable organization. At its core is a community of non-Japanese researchers who come from all over the world to conduct advanced studies in Japan and obtain doctoral degrees from Japanese graduate institutions. SGRA identifies issues related to globalization and seeks to disseminate research results to a wide audience through forums, reports, and the internet. SGRA's aim is to reach society at large rather than a specific group of specialists through wide-ranging research activities that are inherently interdisciplinary and international. The essential objective of SGRA is to contribute to the realization of responsible global citizens.

Garnering the support and cooperation of various like-minded institutions, the 1st AFC was held in March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, the 2nd in August 2014 in Bali, Indonesia, the 3rd in September 2016 in Kita Kyushu City and the 4th in August 2018 in Seoul, South Korea. The 5th AFC was most recently held in Manila, the Philippines, in January 2020. All of the conferences were made memorable by the many passionate presentations as well as fruitful exchanges that took place. The 6th AFC will be held in Taipei, Taiwan in August 2022. We look forward to welcoming a diverse and dynamic group of conference participants.

NEXT STEPS

AFC 6 ROUNDTABLE

“COMMUNITY AND GLOBAL CAPITALISM: IT’S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL”

SERIES: CONTEMPLATING THE WORLD FROM SOUTHEAST ASIAN LENS

August 29, 2022 (AM)

Organized with the Community Development Team of CPAf/UPLB (Dr. Josefina T. Dizon and Dr. John E.M. Perez) and AISF Scholar Dr. Jakfar Idrus



DR. JOPAY DIZON (PH)
CPAf/UPLB (PH)



DR. JOHN PEREZ (PH)
CPAf/UPLB (PH)



DR. JAK IDRUS (IDN)
KORUSHIKAN UNIVERSITY (JP)

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**We thank you for
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efforts to contribute
to Sustainable
Shared Growth.
Be safe!**

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SUSTAINABLE 
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SEMINAR #30
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