

PSCI 099

Education for All by 2015 – Philippines

Faculty Sponsor – Professor James Mahon, Political Science Department

1. Proposal:

My proposal for a project in the Winter Study term of 2008 is to study primary education in the Philippines; more specifically, the implementation of primary education policies from a macro/ micro-level and how the UN Millennium Goals have affected primary education goals in the Philippines. I have set up to interview people working with international agencies (e.g.: USAID, UN, World Bank, Japanese Bank of International Cooperation) in Manila as well as the Department of Education. This will be the macro aspect of my study. From there, I will head up to Cauayan City, a ten-hour bus ride north of Manila, to study primary education first-hand. I will go to five different primary schools, private and public, and study the most important issues involved with primary education. Lastly, I will be assisting the Cauayan North Central School through a dictionary donation project that I have set up with my local Rotary Club.

2. Intellectual Merit:

The importance of education is irrefutable. We see in our very own country very strong efforts to improve the quality of education. Working as a Campus Campaign Coordinator for Teach For America, I've been directly exposed to the inequalities of the US educational system. But for developing countries, the need for primary education is of the utmost importance as education could very well be the key to development. My goal is to work in the realm of international development, but my exposure to international education is limited to books, statistics and pictures. By travelling to the Philippines, visiting primary schools, talking to the very people that work in these issues face-to-face, I will gain insight into the issue of education that is impossible to achieve from the "Ivory Tower"

I believe that the "Ivory Tower" leads to many misconceptions about the developing world. One of them is that the recent Millennium Development Goals established by the UN is the first time education has received any attention in developing countries. My hypothesis is that education has been a most pressing issue in the Philippines for years. But the more interesting question to answer is how the UN MDGs have affected Filipino goals in education, if at all? What are the practical results of the UN MDGs? How do international agencies interact with the Department of Education? Do they just impose their ideas of education on the government, or do they cooperate? My instinct tells me it is the former, but I can only find out through exposure to the issue.

3. Analysis:

Preliminary Research:

I will read the books and publications on primary education to give me the proper background. I will also focus on the statistics produced by the UN and World Bank to analyze the progress made in primary education in the Philippines. Basically, I will prepare myself with the knowledge one can gain from books and statistics on campus.

My interviews will include:

Ms. Lynnette Perez, Human Development Specialist, World Bank (January 7, 4:00pm)

Mr. Thomas Crehan, Chief, Office of Education, US AID (January 21, 11:00am)

Ms. Catherine Vidar, Project Officer, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (January 7, 2:00pm)

Ms. Lulay de Vera-Mateo, Program Officer, UNICEF (January 4, 2:00pm)

Ms. Nannette Mercado, Assistant Director, British Council (January 7, 10:00am)

Ms. Lynnette Perez will be helping set up my interviews with the Department of Education as January approaches.

For the micro aspect, Sister PAULA C. PAGULAYAN, District Reading Coordinator will be taking me to the various private and public schools in the area.

4. Reading List:

a. Readings Completed:

Jeffrey Sachs, "The End of Poverty"

William Easterly, "The White Man's Burden"

Muhammad Yunus, "Banker to the Poor"

Wendy Kopp, "One day, all children: the unlikely triumph of Teach for America and what I learned along the way"

b. Readings for Course:

UN Millennium Development Goals

Medium-term Philippine Development Plan – 2004-2010

Barbara Bruns, Alain Mingat, and Ramahatra Rakotomalala, "Achieving universal primary education by 2015: a chance for every child"

John Wooten, William Jansen, Marion Kohashi Warren, "Project impact, a low-cost alternative for universal primary education in the Philippines"

5. Courses or experience:

Development Economics
Political Economy Senior Seminar
Global Political Economy
Economics of Poor Countries
Economic Liberalism and Its Critics
Statistics 201
International Politics of East Asia
Eyecare in Nicaragua – January 2006
Public Policy and International Affairs Summer Institute 2007 - Fellowship

6. Justification:

I believe that the justification for needing to be off-campus lies precisely in the intellectual merit of my project. I'm looking for an experiential exposure to the issue. I want to understand the issue, not just know about it through readings.

However, the justification for choosing the Philippines is based on practical reasons. First, I've travelled all throughout Latin America. Being fluent in Spanish, Latin America is like being at home. I'm looking to put myself out of my comfort zone. But I need a country where I won't spend the entire month trying to assimilate. The Philippines has a lot of English and Spanish which allows me to experience a completely different culture without spending the entire month trying to assimilate. Furthermore, the Center for Development Economics has a very expansive Philippines network which has facilitated my access to interviews and lodging.

7. Evaluation:

A 10-15 page paper. Given that this is primary research, statistics and personal experience will be documented.

Outline of the Paper:

1. Medium-Term Phillipine Development Plan – Education Policy in the Philippines
2. UN Millennium Development Goals
3. Changes since the signing in 2000.
4. Micro Study – Experience and Issues Studied at the Schools
5. Conclusion

8. Structure:

Week 1 – Interviews in Manila – Macro Aspect of the Study
Week 2 and Week 3 – Micro Level study – visit primary education schools, deliver dictionaries
Week 4 – Final Interviews in Manila, Travel back to Williams

9. Travel information

International – Manila and Cauayan City, Philippines
Dates - Wednesday, January 3, 2008 through Saturday, January 26, 2008

Address and email information to be provided later

10. All previous WSP projects and instructors:
Leadership in Xenophon and Tolkien - Marosis
Eyecare in Nicaragua – Robert Peck
Journalism Today – Paul Neely

11. Expenses

Travel:	Plane Ticket (Round Trip): \$1,200 Buses to Cauayan City: \$100 Taxis for Interviews in Manila and Airport: \$100
Lodging:	Hotel In Manila (7 nights @ 50 dollars/night): \$350 Hostal in Cauayan City (16 nights @ 15 dollars/night): \$240
Food:	Manila (7 days, approximated from Travel Guide Book, @ \$20/day): \$140 Cauayan City (16 days @ \$10/day): \$160
Miscellaneous:	Laundry, taxes at airport, etc...: \$200
Total:	\$2,490.00