



*and*

**PCED**

Philippine Center for  
Economic Development

*present a seminar on*

# Solar Power's Rise and Promise for Inclusive Green Growth

by

***Dr. Ernesto M. Pernia and Ms. Maria Janela M. Generoso***

**16 October 2015, Friday**

4:00-5:00 p.m. – Room 303

***Abstract:***

Time was when solar energy was facetly dismissed as impractical, inefficient, and pricey. In recent years, however, innovations in technology, regulation, and financing have resulted in remarkable efficiency improvements and price reductions – reversing the skepticism about this renewable energy (RE) source. We explore how, to what extent photovoltaic solar technology has been accepted around the world, and what might be its potential for inclusive green growth. We find that adoption of both on-grid and off-grid solar systems has been widespread and rapidly increasing. Particularly noteworthy is the utilization of small-scale individual or distributed off-grid solar home systems (SHS) in remote and underserved areas in the developing world, including East Africa and South Asia. It appears that the Philippines is a relative latecomer. Data show that solar power's "installed" capacity remains a tiny fraction of all RE sources. Moreover, such capacity is for on-grid only; there seems none as yet installed for off-grid SHS. We conclude with the paper's main points and possible implications for policy and research.

***About the speaker:***

Ernesto M. Pernia (PhD, University of California Berkeley) is UP Professor Emeritus. He was a Professor at the UP School of Economics and formerly Lead Economist at the ADB. He was among the first NAST Outstanding Young Scientists in 1980 when the award was established. In 2011 he received the National Research Council of the Philippines Achievement Award for Social Science. He is the 2015 Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering Awardee for Science. His fields of interest are Development Economics, Demographic and Human Resource Economics.



Maria Janela M. Generoso is a junior student in B.S. Economics at the UP School of Economics. She was a prominent student leader in high school. Currently, she is an active member of the UP Economics Society and an officer of the National Youth Congress organizing committee.



**Free and open to the public**

For group attendance, please contact Ms. Gloria Lambino, UPSE Economics Research Center  
Phone: 632-9205465, Email: [gdlambino@econ.upd.edu.ph](mailto:gdlambino@econ.upd.edu.ph)